



CITY OF SILVERTON

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Advisory Committee Meeting

Silverton City Council Chambers
421 S. Water Street
Meeting to be held in person with a virtual option
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85351908656>

Dial in: 1 (253) 215-8782 Webinar ID: 853 5190 8656

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. **Approval of Minutes – January 2, 2024**
- III. **Public Comment – Items not on this Agenda**
- IV. **Discussion**
 - 4.1 **Review Draft Updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
- V. **Adjournment**

Americans with Disabilities Act – The City of Silverton intends to comply with the A.D.A. The meeting location is accessible to individuals needing special accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, headphones, or other special accommodations for the hearing impaired. To participate, please contact the City at 503-874-2216 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A copy of the full packet is available on the City's website at www.silverton.or.us/agendacenter. In accordance with House Bill 2560 the meeting will be held electronically using the Zoom web conference platform. Please submit written comments to igottgetreu@silverton.or.us by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Comments received will be shared with the PRPAC at the meeting and included in the record.

1 CITY OF SILVERTON
2 **PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

3 **421 South Water Street and Zoom Web Conference Platform**

4
5 **January 2, 2024, 6:31 p.m.**

6
7 **I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

8
9 Chairman Freilinger called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Committee members and staff were
10 present in person and through the virtual meeting platform Zoom consistent with House Bill 2560.

11
12

| Present | Excused | |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| X | | Jason Freilinger {Chairman} |
| X | | David Castle |
| X | | Dan Coleman |
| | X | Heather Desmarteau-Fast |
| X | | Aylene Geringer |
| | X | Therese Gerlits |
| | X | Marty Limbird |
| | X | Angie Lindstedt |
| X | | Katie Metzger |
| | X | April Newton |
| X | | John Dewayne Powell |
| | X | Quinton Powell |
| X | | Guy Rodrigu |
| | | Ryan Skaife |
| X | | Marie Traeger |

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31 **Staff Present:**

32 Community Development Director, Jason Gottgetreu; City Manager, Cory Misley; and Associate
33 Planner, Shauna Godlevsky.

34
35 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

36 Member Newton moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2023, meeting. The motion
37 was seconded by Member Traeger and passed unanimously.

38
39 **III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no comments.

40
41 **IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

42 **4.1 Review Open House Results**

43 Director Gottgetreu began their presentation on the open house results from the December 5, 2023,
44 gathering, stating there were sixty-five attendees from the public and six members of the

1 committee present. They then displayed a visual example of the results from the Ike Mooney
2 property; the following were the collected votes for preferred amenities for the property:

- 3 • Hiking/Biking Trails: 52
- 4 • Restrooms: 32
- 5 • Disk Golf: 21
- 6 • Picnic Shelter: 11
- 7 • Dog Park: 6
- 8 • Playground: 4
- 9 • Other/Parking: 4

10 Director Gottgetreu stated the results from the public meeting align with the preferred amenities
11 received from the Parks online Survey from August of 2023. Director Gottgetreu proceeded with
12 their presentation displaying the results from the Petit Property. The following were the collected
13 votes for preferred amenities:

- 14 • Hiking/Biking Trails: 38
- 15 • Water Access: 29
- 16 • Nature Playground: 16
- 17 • Paddleboard/Kayak: 14
- 18 • Picnic Shelter: 11
- 19 • Fishing Pier: 10
- 20 • Other/Bathroom: 4
- 21 • Camping: 1
- 22 • Other/ Trout: 1

23 Director Gottgetreu relayed the hiking/biking trails were conducive with the Parks online Survey
24 data. The results provided that simply being able to access the water was of more importance than
25 a dock for paddleboard/kayak recreation. Director Gottgetreu progressed with the presentation and
26 provided the following data regarding a park at the new [City Hall] building.

- 27 • Downtown Plaza/ Farmer's Market/ Event Space: 42
- 28 • Stage/Picnic Shelter: 28
- 29 • Interactive Water Feature: 23
- 30 • Nature Playground: 14
- 31 • Emphasis on Aesthetics (Ornate Light Poles, Sculptures, etc.): 12
- 32 • Basketball: 0

33 Director Gottgetreu provided an overview of the historical background and progression of the City
34 Hall property development with past preference of amenities from the public. They then compared
35 the current data responses with past results; there was correlation. Director Gottgetreu moved forth
36 with the presentation on preference for additional restroom locations.

- 37 • [City Hall] Park: 17
- 38 • Petit: 16
- 39 • Dog Park/ Skate park: 13
- 40 • Pioneer Park: 7
- 41 • Old Mill Park: 5
- 42 • Ike Mooney: 2
- 43 • Lincoln Park: 1
- 44 • Coolidge McClaine Park: 1

1 The data displayed the undeveloped parks, [City Hall] and Petit, have preference for restroom
2 facilities; this was something to keep in mind as the development(s) potentially progressed. The
3 following statistics were the results from the preferred ball field locations.

- 4 • Oak Street (19.43 Acres): 14
- 5 • Westfield Street, Behind Robert Frost, Enhance Existing Field (Approximate 7.75 Acres):8
- 6 • James Street, Enhance Existing Field (7.14 Acres): 7
- 7 • Pine Street (9.02 Acres): 4
- 8 • Steelhammer Road (17.66 Acres): 3

9 Director Gottgetreu delineated the precise locations of each property, along with the potential
10 parameters that the City would need to consider in acquiring these properties (if they are not
11 currently owned). Director Gottgetreu then displayed the data received regarding Pickleball courts.

12 **Location:**

- 13 • Senior Center/ Dog Park/ Skate Park Property: 37
- 14 • A. Street Property: 2

15 **Features:**

- 16 • Covered Courts: 41
- 17 • Lighted Courts: 32
- 18 • Water Fountain/ Bottle Filler: 10
- 19 • Trees: 6
- 20 • Bleachers: 6
- 21 • Additional Parking: 5

22 **Additional Comments:**

- 23 • Do we need six courts? Maybe save money and build four covered and lighted courts.
- 24 • Please perform acoustic study to learn impacts of noise to surrounding properties.
- 25 • How Easy would this be to convert when pickleball falls out of favor?
- 26 • Combine Tennis/ Pickleball. Currently limited access to school courts.
- 27 • Futsal
- 28 • Would love four lighted Pickleball courts.

29 The Committee and Director Gottgetreu discussed the additional comments that were provided.
30 The data regarding Greenway Features was then shown, note the following results.

- 31 • Natural Surface: 28
- 32 • Paved: 17
- 33 • Pedestrian Lighting: 14
- 34 • Accessible Greenways: 13
- 35 • Wayfinding Signage: 11
- 36 • Enhanced Crosswalks: 10
- 37 • Pedestrian Bridge: 10
- 38 • Crushed Stone: 10
- 39 • Permeable Paving: 7
- 40 • Bike Parking: 2
- 41 • Separated Lanes: 2
- 42 • Mile Markers: 1

43 Director Gottgetreu stated the priorities for the Greenways with improvements to connectivity and
44 safety being the leading preference along with enhancing quality of life, health, and equity.

45

1 **Director Gottgetreu opened the floor for questions and/or insights from the December public**
2 **meeting.**

3
4 Chairman Freilinger stated they were present at the Trails presentation display, and added there
5 were two common threads. People wanting nature trails locally to avoid travel; and people wanting
6 connectivity that was ADA accessible, well lit, with a hard surface. They stated they believe most
7 people chose priority of *Improve Connectivity & Safety*, as it was a general umbrella.

8
9 Member Castle added they heard multiple comments at the December meeting regarding the
10 creation of general safety and accessibility to be able to navigate the perimeter of the town. They
11 agreed with Chairman Freilinger's comment. Member Castle then commented on the data from
12 Pettit Lake, they offered combining the *water access, paddleboard/kayaking, dock*, line items
13 created a strong preferred amenity.

14
15 The Committee discussed the public demographic turnout from the December meeting. Discussion
16 led to specific parameters around the data collected and the process of creating the amenities.

17
18 Director Gottgetreu stated the next steps for the project were to draft the Parks and Recreation
19 Master Plan, compiling the data obtained from the public along with comments from the
20 Committee members. Target review of the Master Plan was March 5, 2024 with a potential follow
21 up meeting April 2, 2024. Beginning the potential adoption process of the Master Plan would
22 include a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission and the City Council along with
23 submitting a thirty-day notice to the Department of Land and Conservation Development.

24
25 Director Gottgetreu and the Committee discussed the Request for Proposals [RFPs] process for
26 the Pettit Lake project and the construction of the Pickleball courts. The Committee considered
27 creating partnerships with local organizations such as the Boy Scouts to assist with construction.

28
29 Member Castle requested the inclusion for verbiage within the Master Plan to focus on walkability
30 and pedestrian connectivity.

31
32 Member referenced a previous meeting where the Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Mike
33 Dahlberg had iterated the need for additional maintenance staff as park projects are created.
34 Member asked City Manager Cory Misley, what their opinion was on [potential additional staff]
35 to assist with the growth.

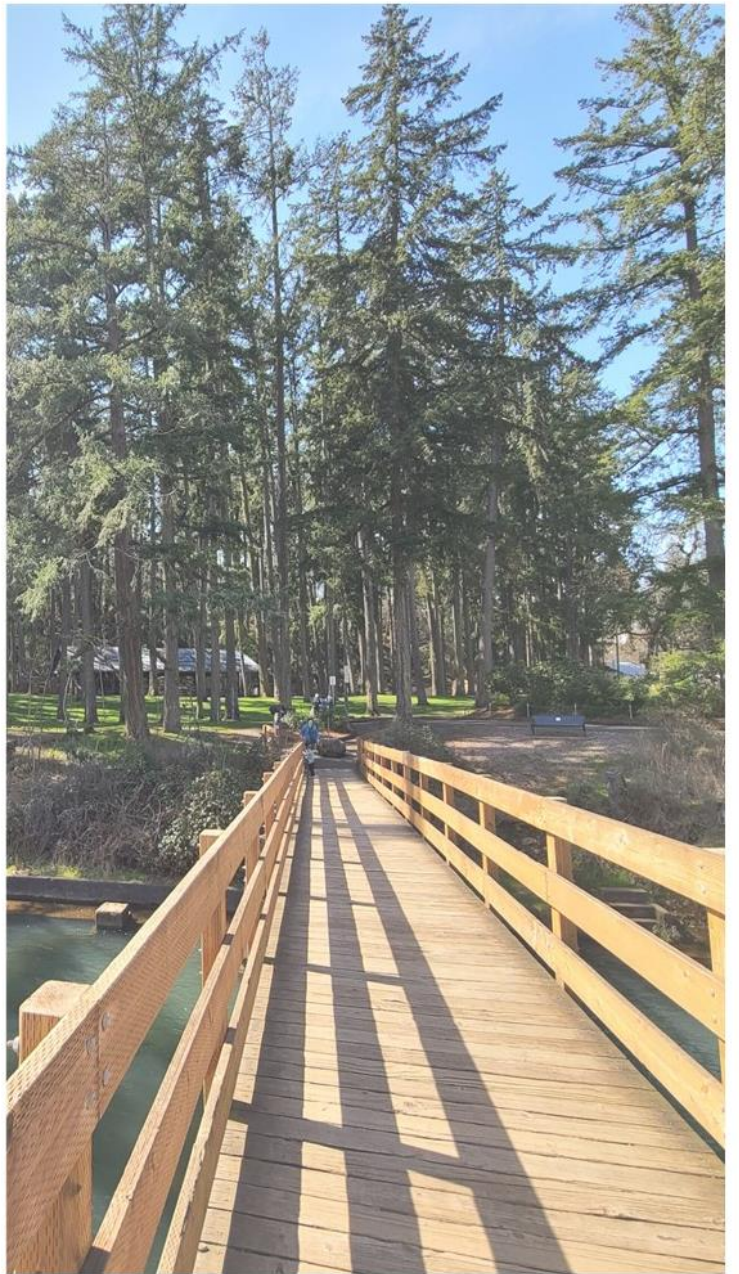
36
37 City Manager Cory Misley stated there are multiple facets to consider as park space expands.

38
39 The Parks Master Plan implementation was considered in correlation with the need for City staff
40 assistance for maintenance.

41 **V. ADJOURNMENT**

42 The meeting was adjourned at **7:37pm**

43 /s/ Cleone Cantu Planning and Permit Assistant



CITY OF SILVERTON PARKS MASTER PLAN



Acknowledgements

Master Plan Advisory Committee

David Castle
Dan Coleman
Heather Desmarteau-Fast
Jason Freilinger
Aylene Geringer
Therese Gerlits
Marty Limbird
Angie Lindstedt
Katie Metzger
April Newton
John Dewayne Powell
Quinton Powell
Guy Rodrigue
Ryan Skaife
Marie Traeger

City of Silverton Staff

Cory Misley, City Manager
Jason Gottgetreu, Community Development Director
Travis Sperle, Public Works Director
Shauna Godlevsky, Associate Planner

Community Recreation Providers

Kristi Horner, Director, Silver Falls YMCA

City Council

Jason Freilinger, Mayor
Matt Gaitan
Eric Hammond
Jess Miller
April Newton
Elvi Cuellar Sutton
Marie Traeger

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Chapter One

Introduction

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan was last adopted over 15 years ago in 2008 creating a need for an update. With that in mind the city began a planning process in 2023 to produce an update to the 2008 Silverton Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A fifteen-member Master Plan Advisory Committee was selected to work with city staff to review the vision statement, goals, policies, and recommendations for the plan.

A. Purpose and Objectives of this Plan

The purpose of this plan is to update the vision and framework for Silverton to value and invest in its quality of place. Parks, greenspaces, and recreation are viewed as essential for maintaining a sense of community, health and well-being, and prosperity.

The plan is intended to be a comprehensive document. Specific objectives include the following:

- To position Silverton to build on its historic, cultural, and landscape heritage, as well as its special charm and friendliness
- To establish clear policy direction and priorities for decision-making, including upgrade and maintenance of existing recreation facilities, closing gaps in services, and meeting park and open space needs in growth areas
- To create and maintain a “green infrastructure” system of connected parks and greenspaces that capitalize on “opportunity areas” – moving away from automobile-based planning to community-oriented public spaces
- To protect, restore and enhance Silverton’s significant natural resources, habitats, and open spaces
- To connect adults, families, and children with nature and fulfill needs for recreation and play, and outdoor education
- To establish a framework for implementing the plan including management strategies and funding options

If these objectives are accomplished, Silverton will not only excel in becoming an exceptionally livable community, but it will also continue to position itself as an integral part of a growing, vibrant recreation-tourism region.

B. Brief History of Silverton’s Parks and Recreation Programs

In 1909, prominent bankers Ai Coolidge and Jake McClaine donated the large, densely wooded 8.5-acre tract of land along the banks and hillside of Silver Creek near the center of town to be used as a public park. Coolidge McClaine Park quickly became a popular gathering place for weekend picnickers and overnight tourist auto campers. The proximity to the creek made the park a prime spot for fishing and

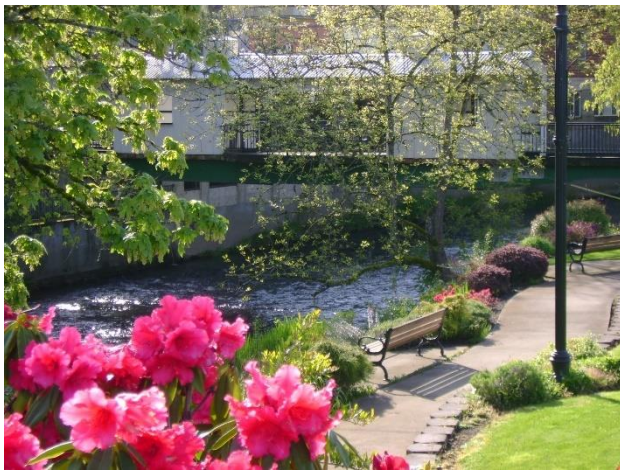
swimming as well.

Almost immediately the handsome stone entryway was erected, which still exists today.

In 1939, Silverton voters passed a bond measure for sewer improvements and the construction of a “modern” swimming pool. The City provided \$18,000 and a federal Works Project Administration project provided the labor. The pool was said to be constructed “for young people” and was opened to the public in 1940.

In 1942, the Fischer Flour Mill was demolished and the City purchased the land. Work began on East Bank Park (Silver Creek) in 1981 when the old Fischer Mill foundation was backfilled and laid with brick. In 1983, picnic benches were installed and paved walkways added. Once covered with blackberry vines, materials were donated by Silverton Rotary and local lumber companies, and the local Boy Scouts and high school students volunteered labor. In 2012 the improvements fell into the creek during a high-water event.

In 1960, Silverton Reservoir was created on Silver Creek above the town for the purpose of flood control and water supply. Development of a marine park on the 60-acre lake has been supported through grants from the State Marine Board, and the Silverton Lions Club constructed the fully accessible fishing pier as a community project.



The Silverton Civic Center Park Committee, formed in 1993, coordinated efforts to build Town Square Park on Silver Creek using donations, volunteer labor, and non-tax funds. The Silverton Zenith Women’s Club spearheaded the fundraising and volunteer activities. Originally the site of the largest blow pipe company in Oregon, it was purchased by the City in 1992. The City funded a new parking lot and historically compatible restroom in 1998.

In 1994, the City of Silverton signed a 99-year lease with the State of Oregon for use of the National Guard Armory as a community center.

In 1995, Silverton was selected by the Oregon Association of Nurserymen as the site of The Oregon Garden, a showcase botanical garden and tourist attraction. Subsequently, the City purchased the 140-acre site and formed a partnership with The Oregon Garden Foundation to construct the gardens and facilities. The City created a series of ponds for treated wastewater, thus avoiding offloading effluent into Silver Creek during the summer. The Oregon Garden Foundation leases the property from the City, and Moonstone Management operates the garden and facilities on behalf of the foundation through a long-term management agreement with the City.

In 2000, Michael Overfield installed a covered footbridge to connect S. Water Street with Town Square Park.



In 2002, the City acquired an 80-acre site adjacent to The Oregon Garden. Known as the Pettit property, it includes a small lake and natural habitat.

In 2009, the City acquired a 40-acre site located off Ike Mooney Road adjacent to the Pioneer Village Subdivision. It was donated as park property to the City. It is mainly undeveloped forestland and pasture.

In 2009, the City entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Silver Falls School District 4J to allow for public use of school athletic fields. The City pays the school district \$20,000 a year for maintenance of athletic fields at school properties.

In 2009 the city acquired a 2-acre parcel in the Pioneer Village Subdivision. The park design was completed in 2013 and construction began the same year. The park opened in fall of 2014 and includes a playground, picnic shelter, walking loop and half-court basketball.



In 2010 the East Bank trail was constructed connecting the pool, bridge, and Cowing Street.

In 2010, the Senior Center was built at the Westfield Street Property. In 2013 the Skate Park and the Dog Park were also constructed on this site. In 2022 the second phase of the Skate Park was completed.

In 2017 a 1-acre parcel of land was purchased downtown next to the new city hall site and 5.25 acres adjacent to Coolidge McClaine Park were donated.



In 2023 construction began on the all abilities playground located at Old Mill Park. The city partnered with The Rotary Club of Silverton to plan and fund the project.

In 2022 the city started construction of the new city hall building which contains council chambers. City services will be moved to the new building in 2024. As a result the city intends to end the lease agreement for the community center due to it's increasingly high maintenance costs and no longer needing a space for council chambers. The goal moving forward is to work with community partners to build a new recreation center to replace the gymnasium functions of the center.

According to noted photographer and Silverton historian June Drake, Silverton's residents have always

been athletically inclined. In the early 1890s Silverton sponsored several baseball teams. The ballpark was on West Hill near where the water tower is located, but often there would be pick-up games on Main and Water Streets. The Silverton Red Sox, a semi-professional baseball team, was formed in 1936 and was sponsored by the Silver Falls Timber Company, whose employees made up the team. The Red Sox games were a main source of entertainment for Silverton residents.

The Silverton Area Seniors program grew out of the Meals on Wheels program established in 1955, and Silverton was the first Oregon city to have a Meals on Wheels program. Ruth Cock worked with the Silverton Meals on Wheels founder Harry Vetter, who wrote the bill that became law. In 2007, the City received an \$800,000 federal grant to construct a senior center, and a site for the building was acquired adjacent to Robert Frost School through a purchase from the school district.

In 1997, the City of Silverton recruited the Silver Falls YMCA to begin offering various youth recreation programs for the community. The City contributed \$15,000 and Silverton Together provided \$20,000 for the "Y" to start the year. The YMCA also assumed responsibility for managing and operating the Silverton Community Swimming Pool.

Silverton is also known for its numerous festivals and special events, including the Fine Arts Festival and Homer Davenport Days.

C. Parks and Recreation Management Overview

The City of Silverton Public Works Department is responsible for the management, development, operations, and maintenance of 304 acres of parks and open space, and two recreation facilities including:

- Silverton Community Swimming Pool (contracted services)
- Silverton Senior Center
- Coolidge McClaine Park and downtown greenway sites along Silver Creek
- Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park
- Pettit Property (natural area)
- Lincoln Park
- Pioneer Park
- Skate Park and Dog Park at Westfield Property Site
- Ike Mooney 40-acre property
- Downtown 1-acre park property
- Park acquisition, planning, and development
- Park maintenance and operations
- Trail planning, development, and maintenance

Park Acquisition, Planning, and Development

The City of Silverton Community Development Department assists Public Works staff in planning, park acquisition, and development responsibilities. These include citywide planning and improvements, additions, and expansion of existing parks and trails, and preparation of grant applications. Examples of projects completed or currently active since the last Park Master Plan update include:

- Renovation and improvements to Coolidge McClaine Park including a new restroom
- Construction of the new senior center, dog park & skate park
- Dedications and easements for trail connections and pathways
- Development of Pioneer Park
- Acquisition of the old Eugene Field School property for new city hall and 1-acre park

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (this document)
- Acquisition of 40-acre property on Ike Mooney Road.
- Installation of all-abilities playground in Old Mill Park

Parks and Recreation Facility Management and Operations

The Public Works Department maintains parks and recreation facilities including building repair and maintenance, and park maintenance including restroom cleaning, litter pickup, mowing, playground inspections, painting, and carpentry. Under contract with the City, the YMCA manages the swimming pool with oversight provided by the City Manager. The Public Works Department is responsible for the pool's water quality management. Currently there is one Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) assigned to park maintenance, with seasonal support.

Sports Facilities and Recreation Programs, Classes, and Services

The Silver Falls School District is the major provider of youth sports programs and provides community use of school playgrounds, sports fields, and gyms. The City currently has an intergovernmental agreement with the School District for public use of school grounds to provide areas for after-school organized sports activities.

Major providers of community recreation programs and classes are the Silver Falls YMCA and the Silverton Art Association

Community festivals and celebrations are a hallmark of Silverton, and volunteer organizations and non-profit groups work with the City to sponsor and facilitate these annual events.

D. Related Planning Efforts and Integration

Over the last several years, the City of Silverton has been undergoing a comprehensive planning effort. Policy makers, community leaders, citizens, and business groups have been engaged in preparing these adopted plans:

- Silverton Transportation System Plan (2020)
- Silverton Storm Water Master Plan (2022)
- Silverton Water Master Plan (2021)

E. Planning Approach

For this master planning process, the city intends to update its Comprehensive Plan in 2024/2025. Additional updates of the Parks Master Plan will likely follow. For this master planning process, a collaborative approach was used to achieve a blend City staff experience, combined with local knowledge and institutional history of the Master Plan Advisory Committee and community members. Key components of the planning process included:

Greenspace System Analysis

- Analysis of Silverton's parks and open space system
- Findings generated for greenspace distribution, connectivity, protection, and accessibility.

Physical Conditions Assessment

- Inventory and conditions assessment of parks, recreation facilities, and off-site considerations

Needs Assessment

- Community Profile Report – demographics, population projections, relevant plans
- Meetings with recreation providers and school district representatives to identify community recreation and sports needs
- Recreation Programs and Services analysis – strengths and weaknesses
- Research of recreation trends and statistics related to community health and well-being

Community Involvement

- Interviews with community stakeholders
- Community Open House
- Online survey for Silverton residents
- Meetings with recreation providers and school district representatives
- Multiple meetings with Master Plan Advisory Committee for community engagement

Management and Organization Analysis

- Current staffing and management organization
- Current finance and funding methods to support system sustainability.
- Current Parks System Development Charges analysis and issues identification
- Analysis of alternatives for park and recreation management and service delivery

Policy Framework

- Identification of major findings and strategic issues.
- Vision statement, reflecting the core values of Silverton residents.
- Goals and policies to fulfill the vision and provide direction for the master plan

Master Plan Recommendations

- Vision diagram to achieve an interconnected network of parks and greenspaces.
- Classification system and definitions to organize the Green Infrastructure system.
- Master Plan report and recommendations, including a list of capital improvement projects.
- Action Plan for implementing the plan including management and organization strategies, capital improvements, funding sources, and priority level

Chapter Two

Community Profile

This section provides an overview of Silverton’s community profile including its socio- economic, historical, cultural, and physical fabric. Growth trends, regional attributes, and land use planning framework are also examined as context for preparing the parks and recreation master plan.

A. Historical Context

Silverton was incorporated in 1885. Recognized as a trading and banking center in its early days, it was said to rank among the most progressive towns in western Oregon. By 1921 Silverton industries included the Fischer Flour Mills on South Water Street, and a sash and door plant – both using power by damming Silver Creek. The Silver Falls Timber Company was once the largest sawmill of its kind in the world. Metal piping was also a major industry, and metal covers on Silverton Streets and sidewalks bear the legendary “Eastman Brothers Metal Works.”

In the 1930s, nearby Silver Falls State Park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and President Franklin Roosevelt designated it as one of his largest National Recreational Demonstration Projects. The park was considered for national park status in 1926 and 1935 but was rejected because “logging had scarred the area with thousands of stumps.”

Today, Silverton is clearly a community in transition. A robust timber industry has been replaced by agriculture including seed, nursery, and Christmas tree operations, as well as vegetables and vineyards. With proximity to Silver Falls State Park and The Oregon Garden including a destination hotel, classic Victorian homes converted to bed-and-breakfast operations, a downtown historic district, strong arts community, and many festivals – Silverton is undergoing a shift in its socio- economic profile including a growing visitor economy.

B. Natural, Open Space, and Scenic Resources

Silverton is in east Marion County at the edge of the Willamette Valley and in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, 14 miles east of Salem and 14 miles from Silver Falls State Park. The regional landscape is referred to locally as Silverton Hills, a rolling topography that gives Silverton much of its scenic interest and natural beauty, providing in-city views of Mt. Hood and the Cascade Mountains.

Silver Creek flows from Silver Falls State Park and forms a natural spine through the heart of the community including historic downtown. Regionally, rich soils support a variety of agricultural uses that provide a distinctively rural setting and context, including areas within the urban growth boundary that are outside the city limits.

These contrasting landscape features and the tree canopy along streets and in residential neighborhoods, riparian areas of the creek corridor, and forested hillsides collectively give Silverton a strong landscape character that contributes to its ambience and complements historic homes and the downtown historic district.

Silver Creek, Ridges, and Hilltops

Silver Creek and parallel ridgelines are the prominent features within the Urban Growth Boundary

(UGB). Along with Abiqua Creek, the two waterways drain the urban area and empty into the Pudding River, a tributary of the Willamette River.

The ridgeline south of the creek has kept much of that part of the riparian floodplain intact, and the City's setback requirements have prohibited development in the floodway and riparian fringe in the more developable areas. The exception is the historic downtown area where buildings are located along the riverbank.

The Silverton Comprehensive Plan identifies steep and heavily forested slopes in the southern part of the UGB as unsuitable for development and considers these areas as having open space value. Slopes greater than 15 percent must comply with special development requirements of the zoning ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan includes these statements concerning scenic views:

"Hilltops and ridges such as those along East Main Street, Reserve Street, and Evans Valley Road in the East Hill provide exceptional scenic views of the Cascades, especially Mount Hood (Figure 5)."

"In the southern area of the UGB, beautiful views of the Cascades and the Silverton Hills are available on the north side of Eureka Avenue from Woodland Drive to Edison Road and Victor Point Road (Figure 5)."

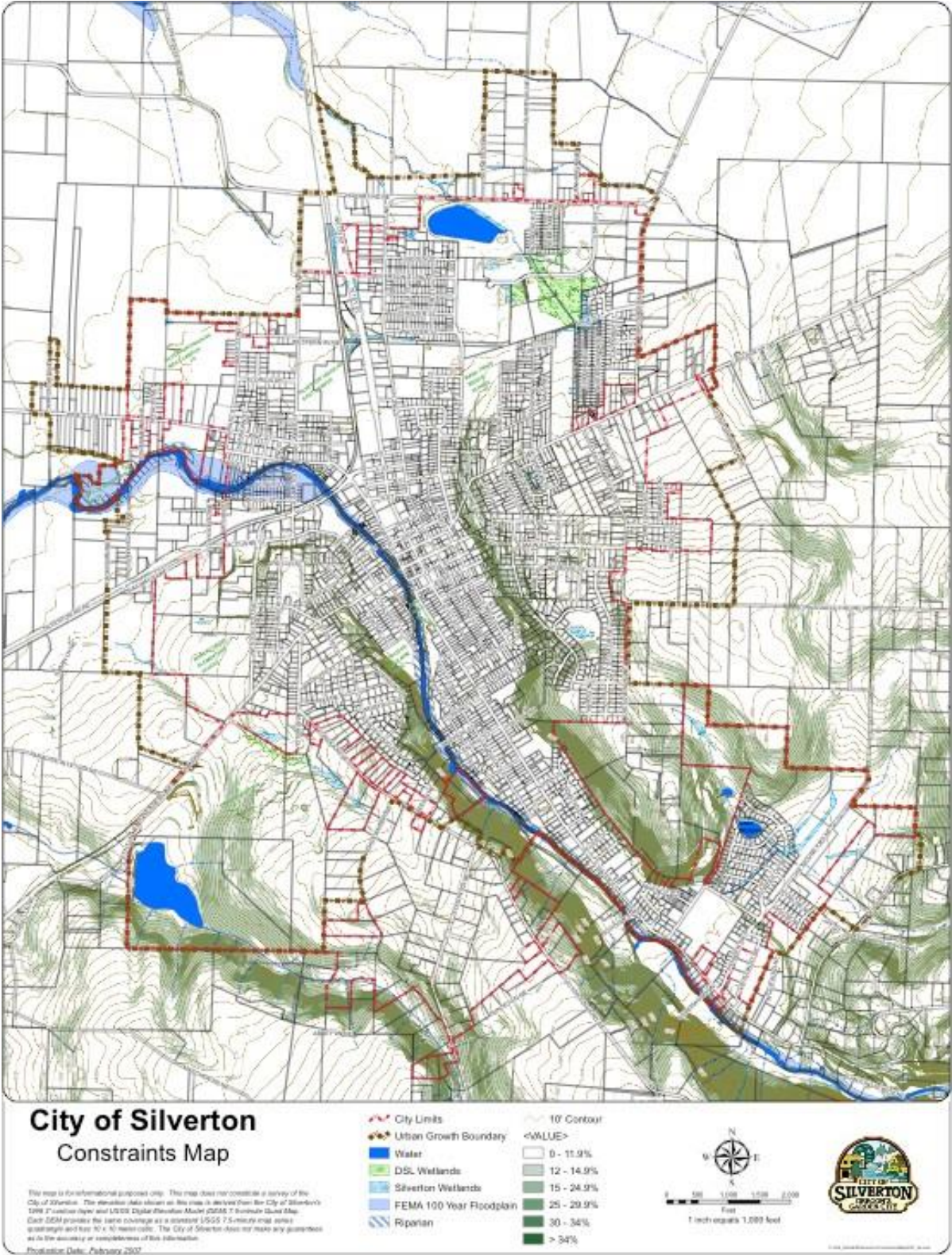
A "Resource Constraints Map" was prepared in February 2008, with 10 ft. contours illustrating five values from 0-34% slopes, and all slopes above 34%. The Silverton Development Code was revised with steep slope standards permitting development on larger lots up to 35%. The Oregon Department of Geology conducted an analysis of steep slopes, including locations of historic landslides and vulnerability locations.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands

The Comprehensive Plan identifies the Silver Creek riparian zone as the most extensive fish and wildlife habitat within the UGB. State wildlife biologists indicate the creek corridor is habitat for many bird species, deer, pheasant, red fox, and beaver. No rare or endangered species are known to inhabit the planning area.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife inventoried Silver Creek in July 1993 and found the lower two-mile reach of the creek is a migratory route for winter steelhead and cutthroat trout. Consequently, the stream is classified as "salmonid" with respect to the Department of Environmental Quality's established water quality standards, and is protected for salmon and trout rearing, as well as migration.

Silverton Resource Constraints Map



The City's "Resource Constraints Map" includes a Local Wetland Inventory that was conducted by Shapiro and Associates in 2000, indicating a large concentration of wetlands near Webb Lake in the northern part of the City, as well as wetlands along the abandoned rail line south of Webb Lake, on the Oregon Gardens site, and in the southeast part of the City near Pioneer Drive. Webb Lake is a former log pond, approximately 11 acres in size.

Comprehensive Plan Open Space Policies

The Silverton Comprehensive Plan includes these open space policies:

- Preserve open space through public land acquisitions, maintaining and developing parkland and school grounds; setbacks; and limiting development in natural hazard areas.
- Examine public surplus land including street ROW for potential open space before disposition.
- Encourage multiple use of existing open space resources.
- Improve and preserve wildlife habitat along Silver Creek to protect fish, wildlife, and riparian vegetation.
- Preserve agricultural land uses within the UGB until the public facilities and services needed for urban development are available.

C. Historical and Cultural Resources

The historic core of downtown Silverton is a nationally registered Historic District, with storefront character from the 1890s to the 1940s. The area encompasses seven acres and five blocks in area and contains 44 buildings.

Presence of a well-organized and developed artist community is reflected in several art galleries, and an art mural project including large murals depicting local stories, landmarks, and American values. The annual Silverton Fine Arts Festival is a major community celebration, and many other festivals and community events celebrate Silverton's heritage and sense of community.

The Silverton Country Museum features artifacts and historical exhibits from early settlement days. The Silver Falls Library District serves 21,000 residents in the Silverton region, and the library in Silverton has a collection of 89,709 physical items and 139,560 electronic items; adult, youth, and children's programs; and computers with Internet stations. The Silver Falls School District also serves the greater Silverton region, including eight rural communities.

D. Parks, Playfields, and Facilities

The City of Silverton owns and maintains approximately 304 acres of parkland and greenspace (see Table 1). Sizable areas include a large municipal lake with waterfront park facilities, and a natural area (Pettit property) adjacent to The Oregon Garden. The heart of the City's greenspace system is the linear public open space along Silver Creek near the downtown, which includes historic Coolidge McClaine Park. Additionally, the City maintains two small sub-neighborhood parks.

Recreation facilities managed by the City include a community swimming pool originally constructed in 1939 and a senior center. The city leases a community center from the national guard containing a gymnasium and space used as the council chambers. With the completion of the new city hall building the

city plans to end the lease agreement of the community center due to the high cost of maintenance and no longer needing a space for council chambers. The goal is to work with community partners to build a new recreation facility.

**Table 1: City of Silverton
Parks, Greenspaces, and Recreation Facilities**

| Site or Facility | Classification | Size | Comment |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Coolidge McClaine Park | Community Park | 13.55 ac | Silverton's historic and central park; Douglas-fir canopy, large group shelter, playground; part of Silver Creek greenway and site of large festivals near downtown |
| Silver Creek "Parks" • Old Mill Park • Town Square Park | Downtown Greenway | 7.7 ac | Linear downtown open space connecting "park nodes", library, City Hall, downtown |
| Downtown Park | Special Use Area | 1.0 ac | Undeveloped urban park adjacent to the new City Hall building |
| Silverton Dog Park & Judy Schmidt Memorial Skate Park | Special Use Park | 11.63 ac | Parks located adjacent to the senior center with approximately 9 acres undeveloped. |
| Pioneer Park | Neighborhood Park | 2 ac | Park serving a subdivision with playground and picnic shelter. |
| Westside Gateway Park | Future Neighborhood Park | 3.86 ac | Future neighborhood park to be donated to the city. |
| Lincoln Park | Pocket Park | 0.3 ac | Small playground |
| Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park | Regional Park | 60 ac lake 140 ac total | Functions as regional waterfront park; accessible fishing dock, boat ramps, non-motorized boating only; restroom and trails |
| Pettit Property | Natural Area | 20 ac lake 80 ac total | Adjacent to The Oregon Garden; no access; representative Silverton natural landscape |
| Ike Mooney Property | Natural Area | 40 ac | Land donated to the city for recreation and a fire substation. |
| Wetland Area | Natural Area | 4.3 ac | Lowland and wetland adjoining Oregon Garden |
| Silverton Swimming Pool | Community Pool | 25-yd pool & two shallow-water pool areas | Older traditional pool w/ winter cover, bathhouse, small zero-depth pool |
| Silverton Senior Center | Senior Center | 5,000 s.f.; | The surrounding site has been identified as a location for pickleball and possible expansion of parking. Potential for first phase of a larger community recreation center. |

Other Greenspace

Rogers Wayside County Park

Marion County owns and maintains a 5.6-acre wayside park across from The Oregon Garden. Silverton youth and a local bike shop owner constructed the BMX track on this site, and the Silverton Kiwanis Club donated materials and constructed the picnic shelter.

Private Common Areas

Private common areas maintained by others are in several developments and range in size from less than an acre to 16 acres. Two of the sites have small lakes, and Webb Lake is a former log pond that is also part of a private common area. Facilities range from small, landscaped areas and water features to park amenities and playgrounds.

Table 2: Private Common Open Spaces

| Site or Facility | Size | Description |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Abiqua Heights | 7.6 ac | Owned by homeowners; functions as a private neighborhood park with small lake, playground, basketball court, benches, overlook; public use not permitted except for walkways |
| Hawthorne Village | 1.1 ac | Common area and walkway overseen by each lot owner. |
| Lake Pioneer | 2.6 ac | Small lake and strip of common area owned and maintained equally by adjacent lot owners |
| Oak Knoll Estates | 0.5 ac | Small landscaped pond and overlook for common use of Association members |
| Webb Lake Development | 16.6 ac including the lake | Former log pond, 2 acres of common open space, and wetland area |

Silverton Senior Center

The senior center opened approximately 13 years ago, and its' mission is to provide social, educational, health-related, and recreational opportunities in a safe, courteous, and inclusive environment for area residents aged 50 and over. The facility can be rented by any age group for special events and the great room can accommodate 80 guests.

Silver Falls School District - Community Sports Facilities and Open Space

The Silver Falls School District maintains four developed school sites (see Table 3). These sites are all geographically distributed throughout the community. Most of the campuses are large and the school grounds, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts and gyms are generally open to the community and used extensively for after-school recreation and sports activities. Some school sites include open space and natural areas. Many community organizations and clubs use school facilities for youth and adult sports activities.

**Table 3: Silver Falls School District
School Sites and Sports Facilities**

| School | Facilities | Size | Comment |
|---|--|---|--------------------|
| Robert Frost Elementary School | Little League fields, softball field, soccer fields, gym; large open space areas | 2-ac playground; 6-ac playfield 11-ac o. space | Large school site; |
| Mark Twain Elementary School | Little League field, softball field, soccer fields, gym, oak grove | 1-ac playground; 7-ac playfield 5-ac o. space | Undeveloped |
| Silverton High School Pine Street Campus | Soccer fields, baseball fields, softball fields, gyms, tennis courts, multi-use fields | 18 ac sports fields | |
| Silverton Middle School Schlader Street Campus | Varsity fields, tennis courts, soccer fields, gyms, stadium, track | 12 ac sports fields | |

E. Community Programs and Services

The City of Silverton is not a direct provider of recreation programs. The major providers of community recreation are the Silver Falls YMCA, Silver Falls School District, Silverton Senior Center, and Silverton Arts Association, (see Table 6). Many volunteers, local vendors, community organizations and clubs form a multi-faceted partnership that offers a wide variety of recreation classes, activities, programs, and special events.

Silver Falls School District – Sports Programs

The Silver Falls School District provides a wide range of youth sports programs including summer camps, tournaments and competitions, and fitness and weight training. School facilities also accommodate many youth and adult sports programs through partnership with the Silver Falls YMCA and many other community organizations and clubs. Events such as the Senior Follies also use school facilities.

Silver Falls YMCA – Recreation Programs and Services

For the past several years, the YMCA has provided community recreation programs and has been responsible for managing the Silverton Community Pool, under agreement with the City of Silverton. The “Y” provides youth and family recreation programs including after-school enrichment and youth sports programs, which have taken place at schools or the community center.



bootcamp.

Silverton Arts Association has been serving the community with arts and art education for sixty years. The SAA has an active membership of over 100 artists, crafts people, and patrons. Art classes for adults, teens, and children are offered at the Education Center, and the Borland Gallery is in the Art Center. Both centers are in Coolidge McClaine Park. SAA sponsors several festivals and special events.

Silverton Senior Center
The senior center provides a variety of programs, classes and support services including Meals on Wheels, yoga, and technology

F. Urbanization, Growth and Development

Land Use Patterns

Urban development in Silverton is largely contained around the central core, except for a linear area of residential use along the Silver Falls Highway where ridgelines and Silver Creek limit more expansive development.

Statistics from the 2002 Comprehensive Plan indicate most of the city's existing land use consists of residential development or is land used for public purposes such as schools, parks, and government services including water and sewage treatment facilities.

Commercial development is concentrated along regional roadways that access the City from the north and west, and within the downtown area. Industrial development is primarily located in a large industrial park in the northeast part of the city, and along the railroad.

Aside from compact development and concentration of industrial and commercial development, the most significant pattern of land use is the geographic distribution and size of public-school lands. Large campus sites are in all but one quadrant of the city, and in some cases parts of the school grounds function as neighborhood or community open space.

Parkland and public open spaces are concentrated in one area along Silver Creek near the downtown, except for a few common open space areas in new subdivisions, The Oregon Garden, and the Pettit property.

For the most part, these patterns have remained relatively consistent over the past few years, with a few exceptions. Residential land for multi-family use has increased, and City acquisitions of The Oregon Garden and adjacent Pettit property across from the sizable Robert Frost Elementary School have created a large complex of land for public and educational purposes. The Pine Street high school campus is also a major land use change in northwest Silverton.

The rail corridor, Silver Creek, and some drainages are linear features of the City that have potential for

providing connectivity among neighborhoods, the downtown, and public open space and school sites.

The Comprehensive Plan encourages mixed-use development at identified nodes to promote a more sustainable development pattern, by providing a variety of housing choices located near supporting commercial development.

Urban Growth and Development

Residential growth in Silverton has been varied since 2010, averaging 35 permits a year and totaling 451 permits through 2022.

By agreement with the City, Marion County is responsible for regulating land use in the UGB outside the City limits and coordinates its decisions with the City and its growth management policies.

G. Land Use Planning

Key parts of the Comprehensive Plan have been updated, the Transportation System Plan, the Water Master Plan and the Storm Water Master Plan have been updated. Combined with this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Silverton will be solidly positioned to respond to future growth and development in the most effective, efficient, and sustainable manner.

Silverton Comprehensive Plan

The City of Silverton’s Comprehensive Plan was adopted in July. The Open Space, Natural and Cultural Resources chapter has not been revised since 1986.

Future Action #2 calls for the City to develop a program for parkland acquisition in newly developing areas, including possible dedication of land or contribution to a parkland fund by subdivision developers. Silverton’s Municipal Code does address parkland dedication, but review of the current code is recommended.

Silverton Downtown Master Plan

The central theme of the Downtown Master Plan is to create a vital downtown through integration of historic urban design elements, mixed use, great streets, and public access to Silver Creek. The vision for downtown includes a cantilevered creek walk, a lively downtown core with sidewalk cafes, awnings, historic signage, and historic ornamental streetlights.

Two locations are targeted for public plazas –the new city hall site located at the intersection of Park and N Water Street serving as a place for events, vendors, and festivals; and the Silver Creek Overlook located at Lewis and Water Street to provide visual access to Silver Creek and provide space for an informational kiosk.

Silverton Transportation Plan

The Silverton Transportation System Plan identified needs for a “safe, efficient and interconnected system for recreational-based pedestrian and bicycle trips” including “home-to-park” and “exercise trips.” These gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network were identified:

- Notable sidewalk gaps exist in the downtown area. Further from the city center, the sidewalk network becomes intermittent. The railroad and Silver Creek also present barriers to pedestrian connectivity from the areas north and west of downtown.
- Existing deficiencies noted through the Safe Routes to School assessments including a lack of pedestrian/bicycle crossings and incomplete/missing sidewalks.
- The City currently features about 3.8 miles of marked bike facilities but lacks a designated bicycle

network that connects entrance portals, downtown destinations, schools, and other key trip attractors.

- Collector and higher-level facilities tend to provide the best and the most direct network connections, but several of these were identified as higher stress facilities.
- The pedestrian system has significant barriers (creek, railroad, topography) that contribute to poor pedestrian connectivity throughout the City.
- The lack of safe bicycle facilities and gaps in the system cause the most significant problems for bicyclists traveling to and from downtown Silverton.
- Need to connect bicycles and pedestrians with schools, parks, and activity centers.
- Need for regional bikeway connections.

Abandoned rail lines are identified as good opportunities for available ROW to develop several off-street, generally recreational focused, multi-use trails that will create a connected pedestrian and bicycle system throughout Silverton. Additionally, creekside trails adjacent to Silver Creek have been identified that provide connections to Coolidge McClaine Park, the library, and other recreational destinations.

Both the Pedestrian and the Bicycle system recommendations include projects to create two multi-use trails, with HIGH priority:

- (1) 2nd Street Off-street Path – from Oak Street to Hobart Rd
- (2) Silver Creek Off-street Path – from C Street to Silver Falls Library

H. Demographic Profile

Population

Silverton’s estimated population in 2021 was 10,558 per the U.S. Census Bureau. Since 2000, Silverton’s population has grown 42% (see Table 4). The City estimates that the population will be approximately 13,759 in 2040 (Water Master Plan, 2021).

Table 4: Silverton Population Growth 1990-2007

| 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| 7,414 | 9,222 | 10,484 | 10,558* |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
* Estimated

With eight surrounding rural communities, for planning purposes it is important to consider the regional population (approximately 21,000) as the service area. Both the Silver Falls Library District and the Silver Falls School District serve the Silverton region.

Age Distribution

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, children, and youth under 19 years of age constitute 27.1% of Silverton’s population, and older adults and seniors 65 years and older make up 17.8% (see Table 5). For age groups that characteristically participate in recreation activities at high rates, these two segments of the population total almost 45%. As the Baby Boomers age, the percentage of older adults will continue to grow.

Table 5: Silverton Population Age Distribution – Silverton, Oregon 2021

| Age Groups | Percent |
|---------------|---------|
| Under 4 years | 7.0 |
| 5-9 years | 7.4 |
| 10-19 years | 12.7 |
| 20-29 years | 11.7 |
| 30-39 years | 11.6 |
| 40-49 years | 14.5 |
| 50-59 years | 10.0 |
| 60-64 years | 7.3 |
| 65 and over | 17.8 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Gender

The 2020 census shows a higher percentage of females (52.4%) than males (47.6%). Silverton’s female population is somewhat higher than the national and state percentage (50.5% and 50.0%).

Race

The U.S. Census Bureau shows Silverton’s race is predominantly White, 9.9% are Hispanic, 7.8% Multiracial, 4.4% are Other, 0.6% are American Indian and .2% Black or African American. With increasing diversity of the community, it will be important to target recreation opportunities to emerging populations and celebrate their heritage, recreation, and culture.

Household Income

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, 12.2% of Silverton’s population is at the poverty level. A high percentage of Silverton’s households have incomes below \$25,000 (16.8%) 21.1% have incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000, and 62.1% have incomes above \$50,000. In 2022 the Area Median Income for Silverton is \$75,167.

Housing

In 2020, owner-occupied dwellings were 59.7% of the total number of household units. Renter-occupied dwellings made up 40.3%, about 3.5% above the State percentage. Silverton has a very small vacancy rate of household units (4.77%) compared with Oregon’s rate of 8.48%.

I. Regional Recreation and Tourism

The Oregon Garden and Silver Falls State Park are regional attractions that are a significant part of Silverton’s community context and economy.

Oregon Garden

The Oregon Garden, located on the southwest edge of Silverton inside the city limits, is a 140-acre demonstration public garden created by the Oregon Association of Nurserymen and the City of Silverton in 1997. The City of Silverton owns the land and the Oregon Garden Foundation and Moonstone Garden Management, Inc. are responsible for the garden’s operations. Moonstone acquired a part of the site for a resort hotel.

Features of the garden include specialty gardens and features, a visitor center including gift shop and garden café, classrooms, banquet hall, conference facilities, and a large pavilion that can accommodate up to 1,200 persons. Special events include summer concerts, community festivals, and special events such as quilt shows. The Oregon Garden also offers an environmental education program typically for fourth through sixth grade students available on a first come first serve basis.

Using treated wastewater from the City, the Garden reuses wastewater for irrigation of the gardens, providing waterfowl and amphibian habitat where a series of ponds were created. This allows the City to avoid offloading effluent into Silver Creek during summer months.

Gordon House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and moved from Wilsonville, is located on the grounds and is open to the public.

The City's acquisition of the adjoining 80-acre Pettit property – a forested landscape with a 20-acre lake – functions as a significant community open space site and demonstrates the strong partnership with The Oregon Garden.

The garden attracts approximately 100,000 visitors a year, making it a major tourist attraction. Silverton bills itself as “Oregon's Garden City.”

Silver Falls State Park

Located 14 miles southeast of Silverton, 9,000-acre Silver Falls State Park is the largest state park in Oregon, with 14 waterfalls that range in height from 27 to 178 feet. The park has extensive visitor facilities including a historic lodge, modern conference center, and a variety of camping options.

The park receives nearly a million visitors a year, roughly twice the annual visitation at Crater Lake, Oregon's only national park. Crater Lake generated nearly \$62 million in visitor spending in 2021, according to a National Park Service study. Tourist expenditures supported approximately 887 jobs in the region. Silverton bills itself as “The Gateway to Silver Falls.”

Chapter Three

Community Needs

This section identifies Silverton’s park, greenspace, and recreation needs. Extensive public outreach helped identify community needs as perceived by residents. The current system of parks and greenspaces was analyzed as well as future opportunities, conditions of existing parks and recreation facilities were identified, and strengths and weaknesses of recreation programs and services were examined. The current structure for management and operations was also evaluated. Current recreation trends were examined to gauge future needs. Results of the assessments were synthesized and distilled into findings and issues, outlined in Chapter 4.

A. Community Outreach

A “triangulation of methods” approach was used to offer a variety of opportunities for community participation in the planning process. Rather than rely on a community survey, it was considered more valid to engage residents in several ways to identify aspirations, sensibilities, and perceived recreation needs. In this way given the size of the community, common themes emerged and were validated through iteration.

Master Plan Advisory Committee

A fifteen-member advisory committee was appointed by the Mayor to assist City staff in the planning process. The committee met nine times over a year-long period and all meetings were open to the public. Tasks of the committee included reviewing and providing feedback on the 2008 Park Master Plan, the public survey results, and the draft plan recommendations. They partnered and conducted stakeholder interviews and assisted at the public open house meeting. They were given assignments with some of the general results shown below.

Assignment 1:

Review and make recommendations for the Parks, Open Space and Greenspace System & Parks and Facility Conditions Analysis from the 2008 Parks Master Plan:

Parks, Open Space, and Greenspace System

Strengths

- Possibility for leasing, purchasing, or donations of certain Oregon Garden space for public city recreation.
- Large School sites are not a strength for the community due to security issues and should not be counted as part of our park inventory.

Weaknesses

- We are deficient in public use community center and indoor recreation activities for rainy months.
- We need additional maintained parks to offset the threat of overuse at Coolidge McClaine Park. To be successful with this task, it is necessary to actively pursue the development of a parks and recreation department.
- We need more park development on the east side of town.

Opportunities

- Possibility of connection between north Pioneer Drive and connecting to Eastview/Abiqua Heights. This area is relatively flat with a gradual slope that could lead to other key parkland development opportunities.

- *Identifying areas to plant native grasses and wildflower seeds for long term sustainability, prevent weed overgrowth, and erosion control.*
- *Identify possible opportunities for a parks & recreation department.*
- *It is important to consider potential tourism money brought in by quality parks. Linking parks together provides an opportunity for possible paid events such as community runs and bike rides. Silverton is the gateway to Silver Falls State Park which has a growing mountain bike trail system and people drive long distances to visit the trails. If there was a quality trail system in town people would stop and ride, creating more opportunity for visitation to local businesses.*
- *Unsure if a multi-use trail along silver creek is viable due to all the private property.*
- *Consider a trail through the Edgewood property to connect Coolidge McClain Park with the Oregon Garden and Pettit Park.*
- *Potential opportunity to purchase an Evans Valley Road property adjacent to the city owned 40 acres on Ike Mooney Road to serve as a central community park. Could host more soccer fields and include hiking/mountain biking trails and a disc golf course. Viewing opportunities available and possibly add a pond. Recommend connecting Abiqua Heights, Pioneer and Crestview neighborhoods.*
- *Land between Water Street and Abiqua Heights could be used for a hiking/biking trail to connect the downtown/Silver Creek area to the Pioneer neighborhood.*
- *Ridgelines and hillsides are a huge opportunity for greenspace and trails.*
- *The partnership with the school district needs to be strengthened.*
- *The newly acquired old rail property near Mill Street is a great opportunity for a new nature trail.*

Threats

- *We could create a stalemate of our development potential without official city park maintenance workers.*
- *Below-standard, small parks create high maintenance costs. The economy-of-scale impacts on the City can be excessive.*
- *Pickleball courts could be installed at Pioneer Park.*
- *Install a pump track and new mountain bike trails at the Ike Mooney property.*

Park and Facility Conditions Analysis

Parks and Open Spaces:

Strengths

- *Silverton's parks and open spaces are in good physical condition and reflect a moderate level of care and maintenance*
- *With a growing and active community, parks are a valuable resource that will require necessary attention to keep up with the ever-changing demographic.*
- *Park space is well maintained, but city-owned land close to the parks needs maintenance. Civic clubs and other volunteers are still very active, but more staff will be needed to keep up in the long term.*
- *Add pickleball, tennis and basketball courts to the dog park/skate park/senior center property.*

Weaknesses

- *Bathrooms in Coolidge McClaine Park need repaired. Bathrooms need to be added to other park spaces.*
- *Maintenance lags on mowing and improper irrigation usage are inefficient for water resources and creating dry areas. An irrigation audit would solve many issues and save the city water.*
- *An informed and licensed pesticide applicator could easily control all weed infestations to keep pathways and uncontrolled areas cleared. Using an integrated management program would be key to implementing overall environmental safety and protection.*
- *Utilizing space to create new parks in strategic locations would help offset overuse of Coolidge McClaine Park.*
- *South of Coolidge McClaine Park, the informal trail along the steep east bank of Silver Creek is unsafe in places.*

Clearing of heavy vegetation, trees, installation of fencing and railways, and erosion controls may be necessary to achieve a connected pathway in certain areas.

- *Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park -Maintenance of trails could include public works, community volunteers, and/or a third-party company.*
- *Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park - The city could explore park and ride options during certain periods to offset the onsite parking issues.*
- *More parking is needed at Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park.*

Opportunities

- *Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park - Park and ride opportunities during peak strategic times along with possible rentals could provide the city with additional income and promote more activity at the Silverton Reservoir.*
- *Petit Natural Area - A loop trail could be a very appealing setting for recreation in a naturalized area in town.*
- *Consider a trail around Silverton Marine Park.*
- *Pettit Natural Area – need to build walking/ biking trails and add amenities such as park benches and picnic tables.*

Threats

- *The city needs to consider future population growth and pursue the establishment of a city parks and recreation department. This would ensure proper maintenance and care of the current system along with allowing for expansion.*

Recreation Facilities:

Strengths

- *Our community center is dated, small, and requires volunteers to run everything. I would not call this asset a current strength. A renovated or new community center is necessary.*
- *Investment is needed for the old pool facility.*
- *Schools cannot be our only source of sports facilities because of security.*
- *Community Center – lighting & ventilation needs to be upgraded.*

Weaknesses

- *The gymnasium is too small to accommodate large groups.*
- *Tear down and replace the community center with a multipurpose recreational facility to include gymnasium, basketball court, pickleball court and dance floor.*

Opportunities

- *There is space on the southeast side of the pool for a splash pad as an opportunity for smaller kids.*
- *A new pool facility is needed.*
- *The school district partnership for sports fields rentals is not a great option anymore.*

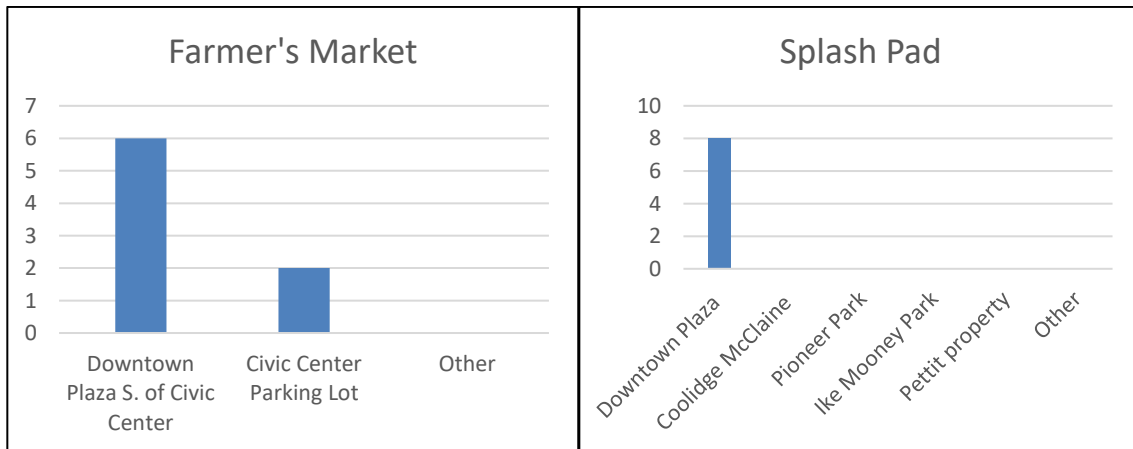
Miscellaneous Comments

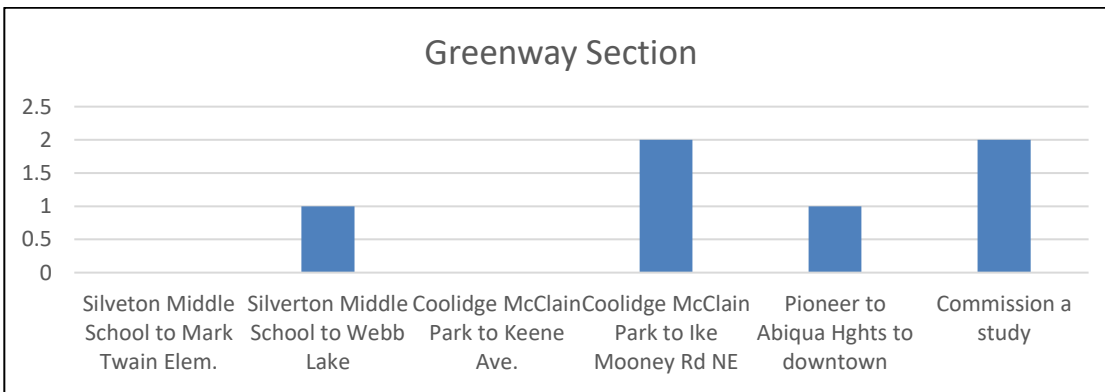
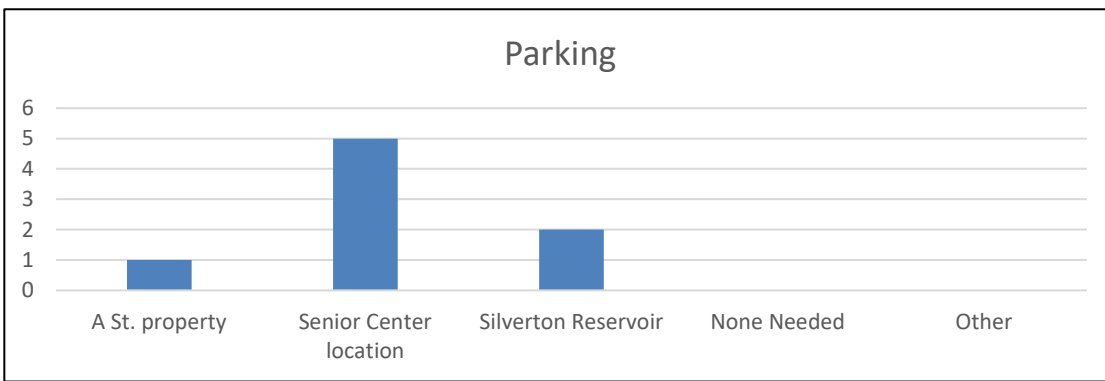
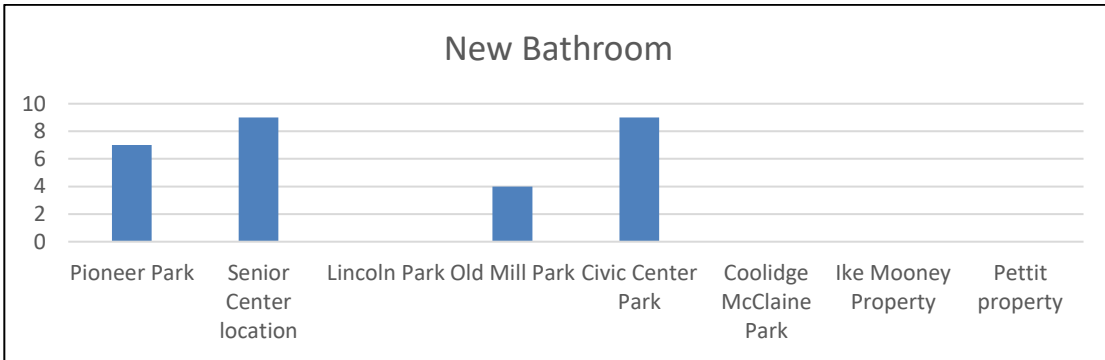
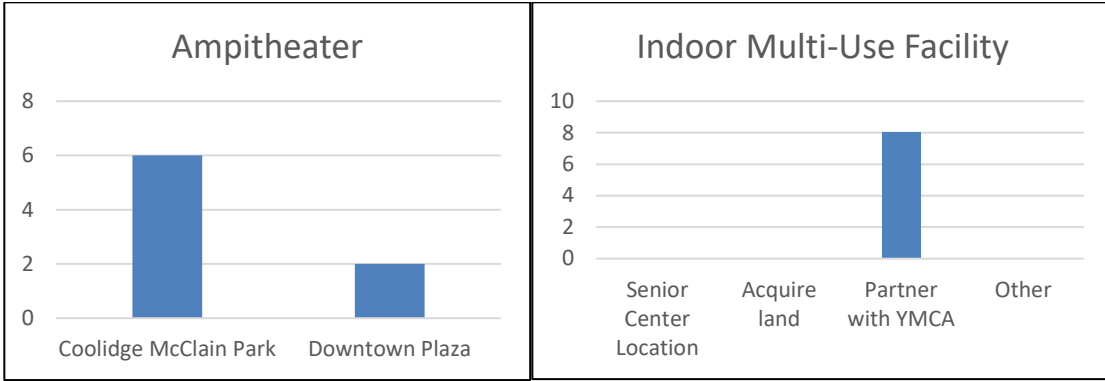
- *The Sports Complex at the High School - there is an opportunity to leverage existing assets including parking, field lighting systems and developed field spaces. The varsity soccer field, along with the youth baseball and varsity softball fields are often held back from extra community use due to the potential wear and tear on the grass. There is an opportunity to increase hours of use by upgrading the surface to artificial turf, which lowers maintenance costs and allows use more months of the year. It would also allow hosting various tournaments which increases city revenues from such events.*

- There is potential to leverage the high school sports complex by locating the future YMCA/Pool/Community Rec center to the north or west of the high school.
- Look at opportunities near the wastewater treatment plant.
- A few spray parks around town would be a great feature and attraction. Maybe a bond for people living in Pioneer and maybe a spray park somewhere along the river or near the Pettit property.
- Add a joint county park space near 12345 Paradise Alley Rd NE.
- Add a ridge trail from Abiqua Heights to Pioneer Village.
- Add trail/paths:
 - Around Pettit Reservoir and the Oregon Gardens and connect to Coolidge McClain Park.
 - Connect Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park to Pioneer Village to scenic ridgeway to Silver Creek and to potential future community park and 40-acre Ike Mooney parcel.

Assignment 2:

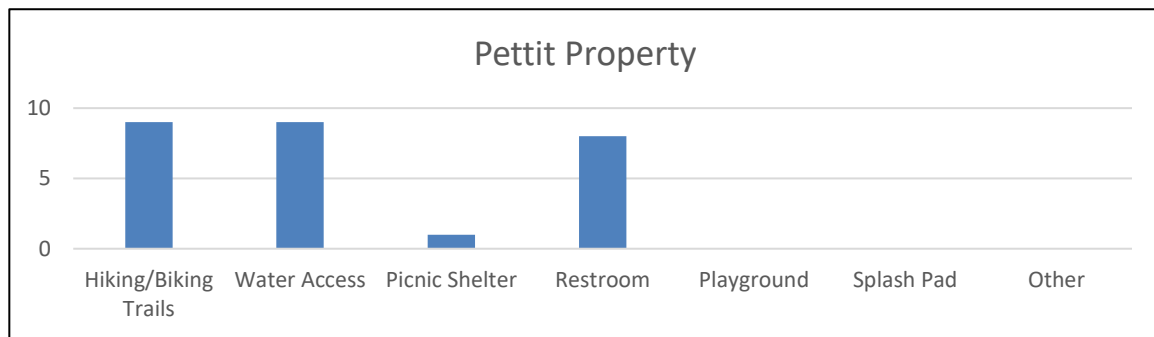
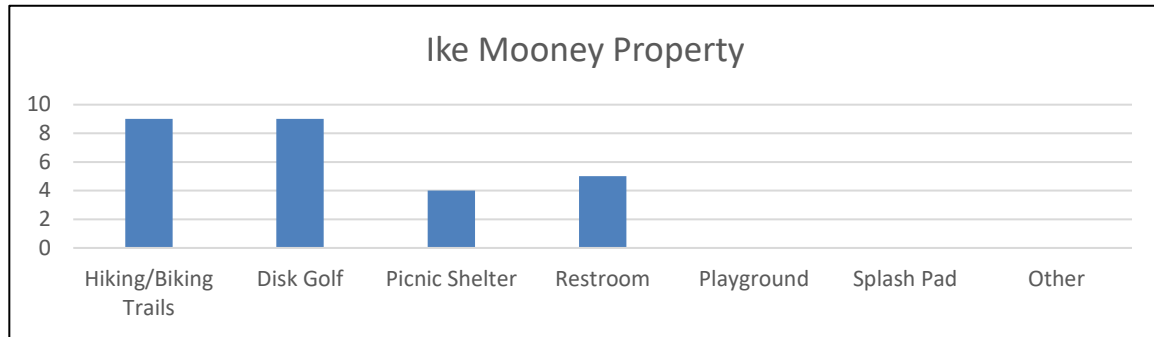
Choose one priority location for each:





Assignment 2 Continued:

Choose three top priorities for each location:



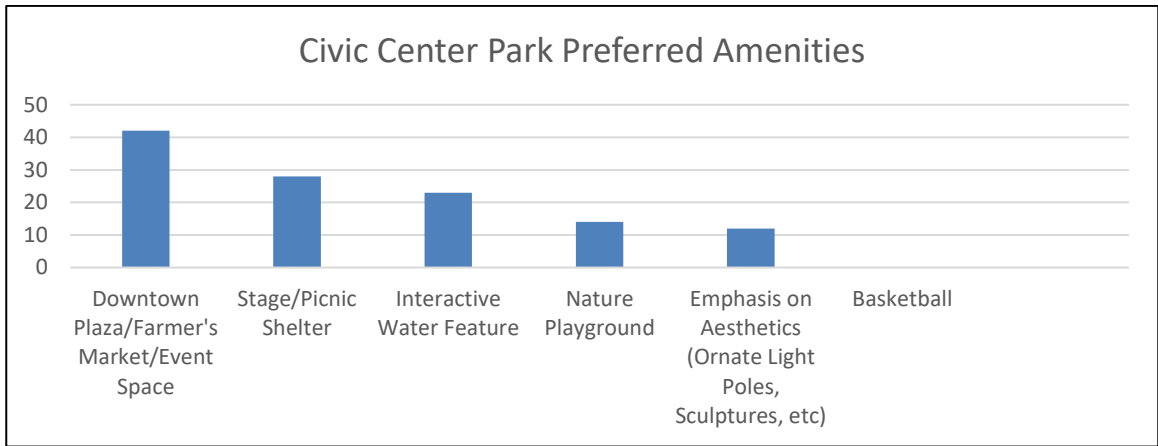
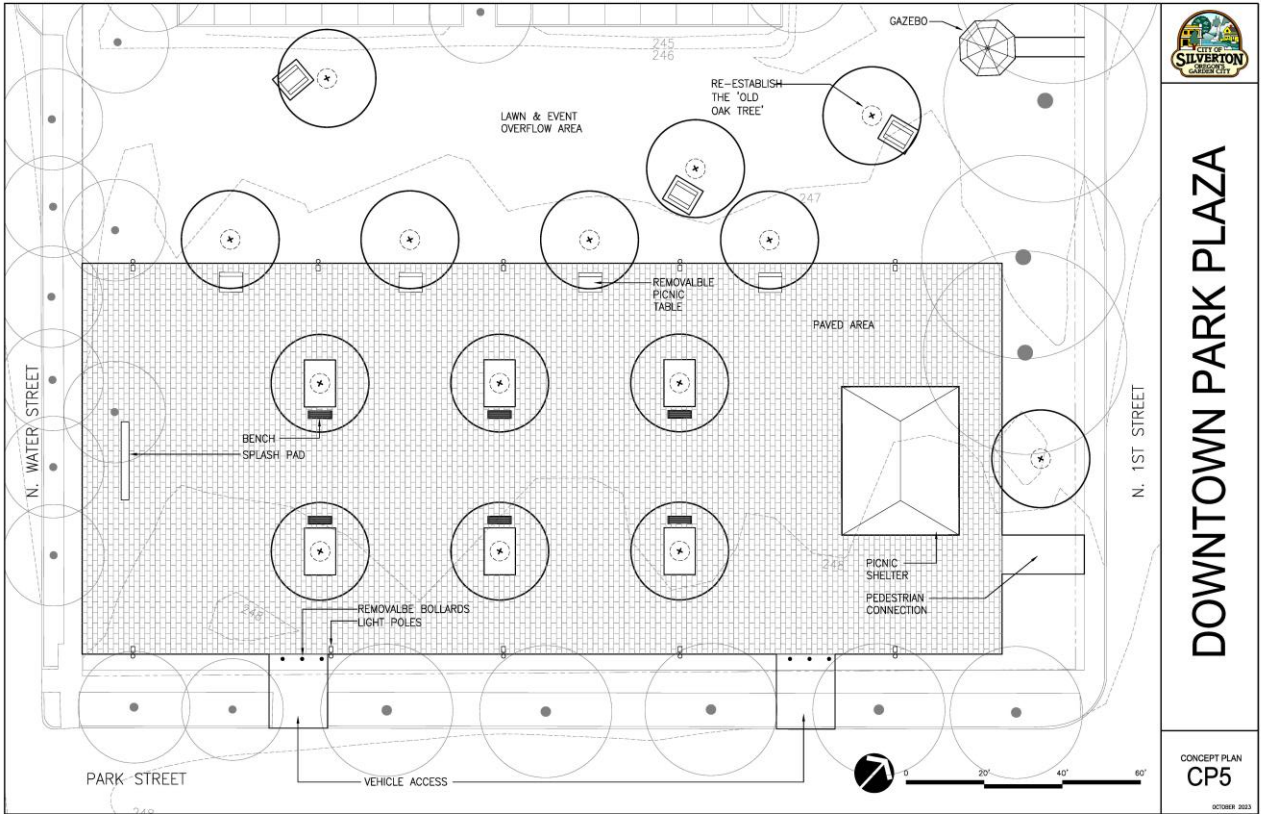
Stakeholder Interviews

Early in the planning project, interviews were conducted with stakeholders identified as key knowledgeable in the community. The Parks Advisory Committee separated into partners and conducted the interviews, the results are in Appendix D.

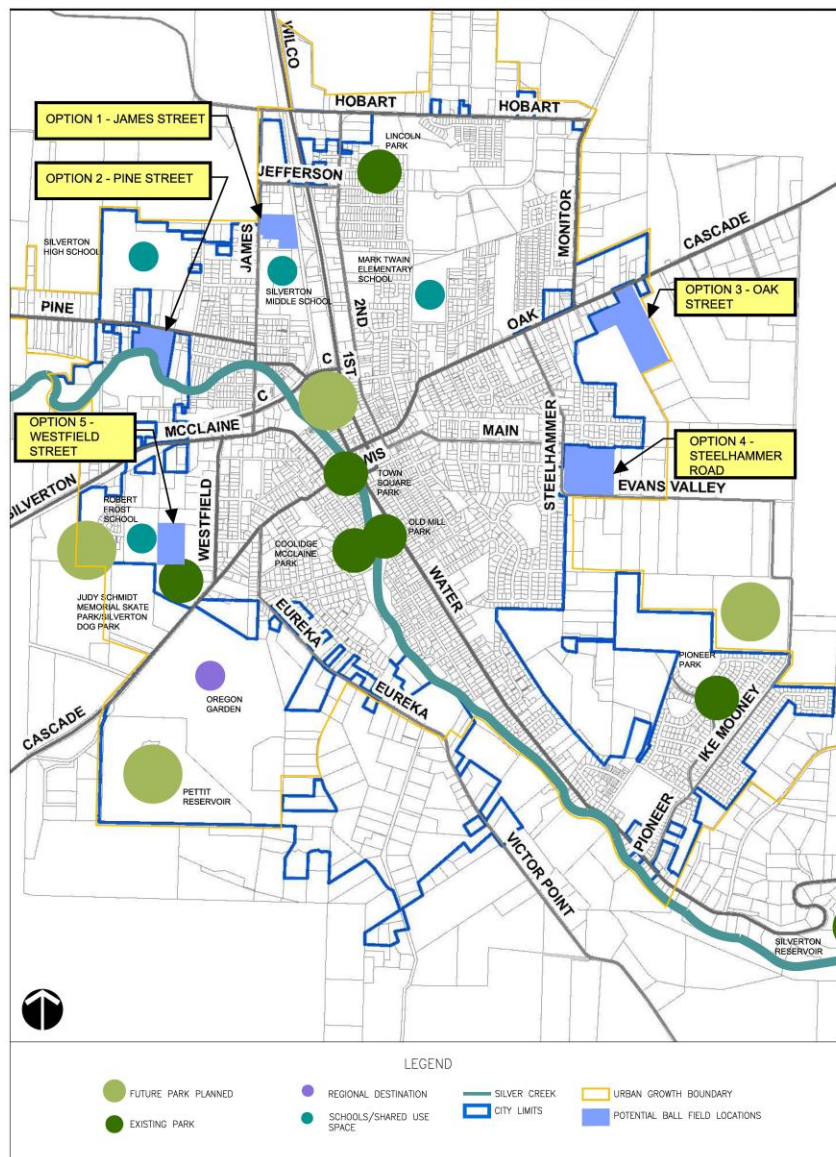
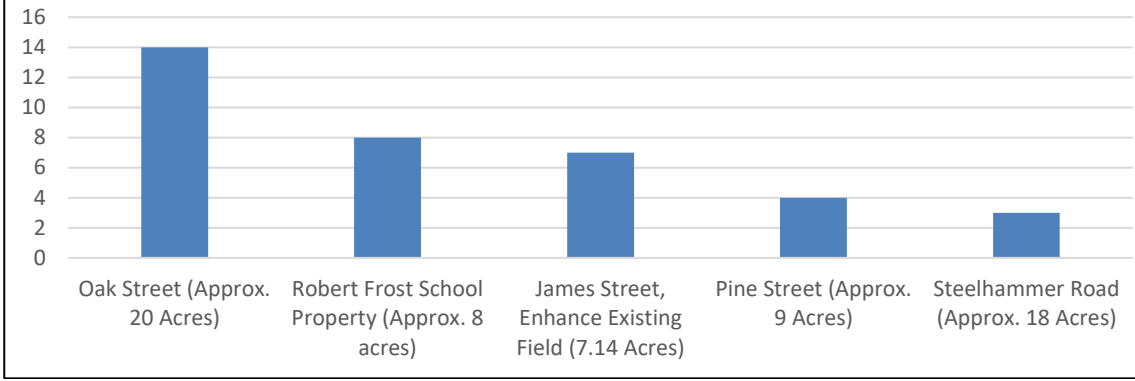
Community Open House

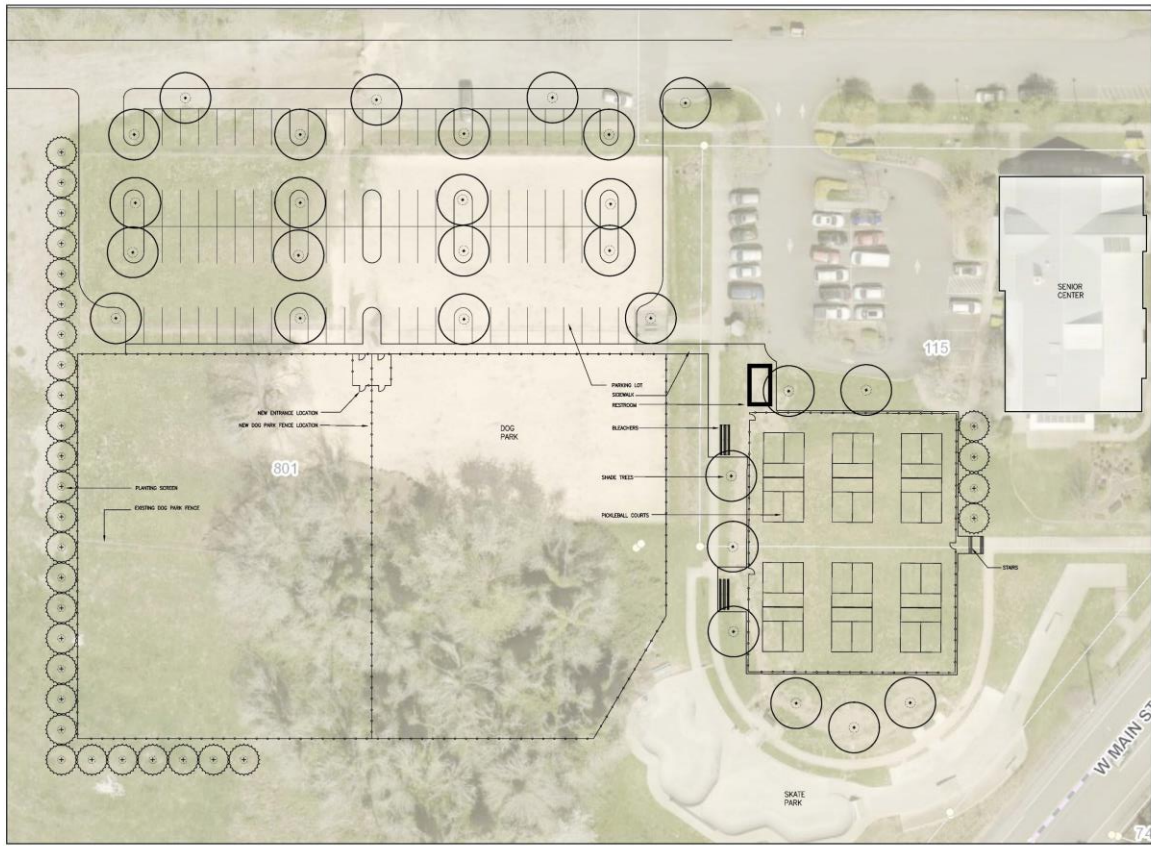
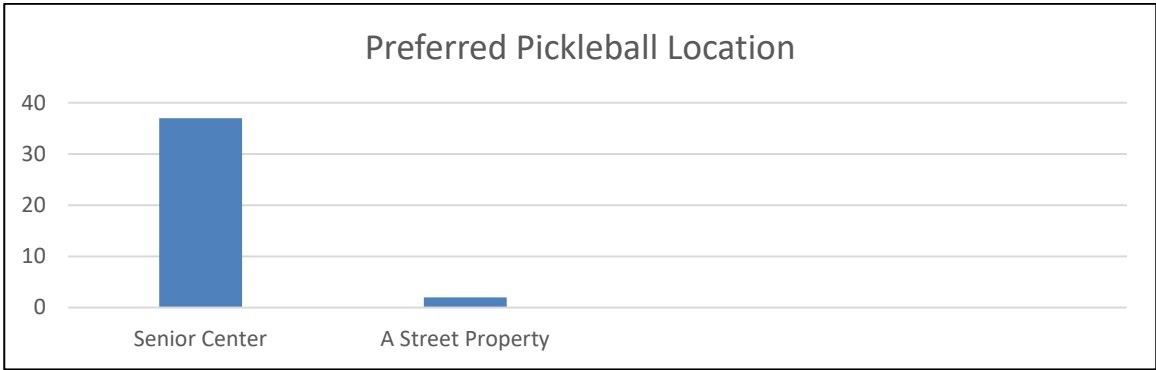


The community open house was attended by 61 residents who reviewed interactive conceptual vision diagrams and amenity options. Attendees selected their preferred options and filled out comment cards. The following are some of the results obtained:



Preferred Ball Field Locations

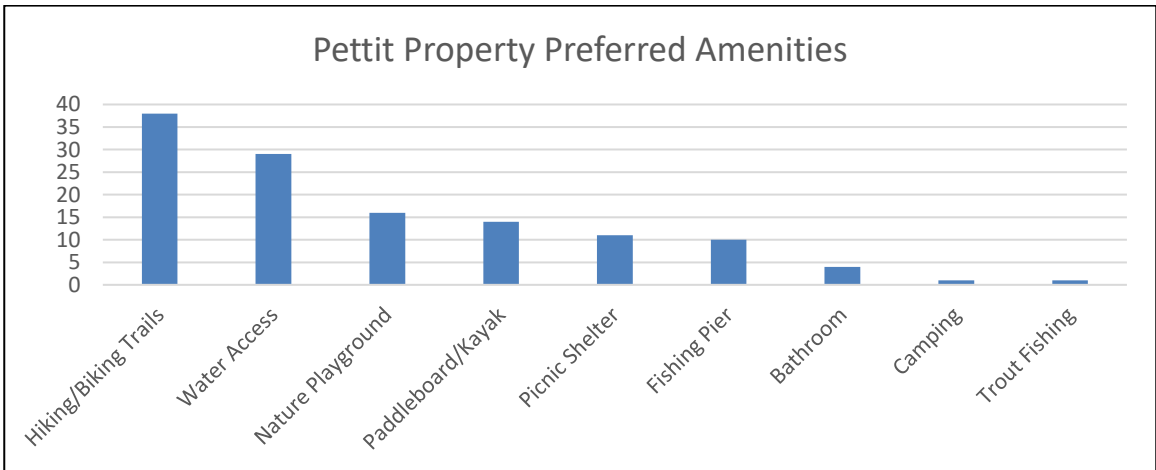
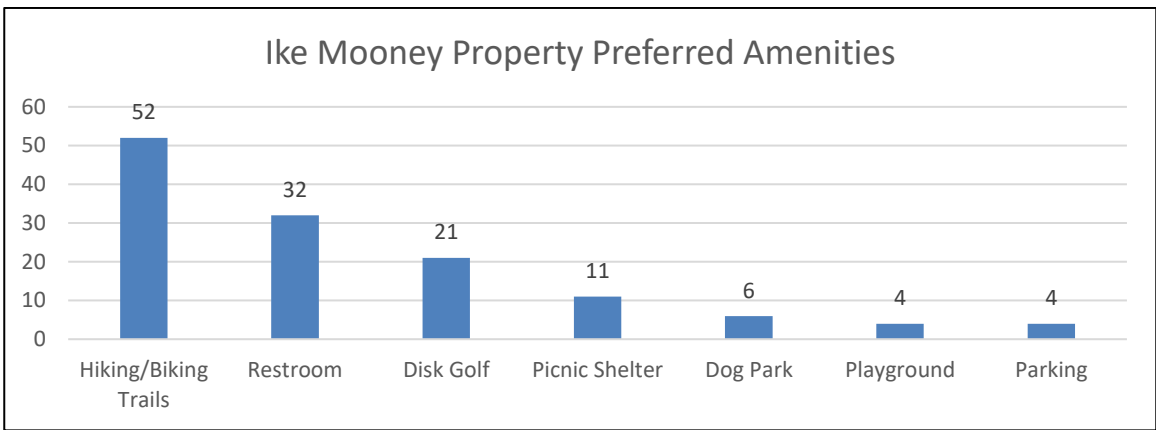
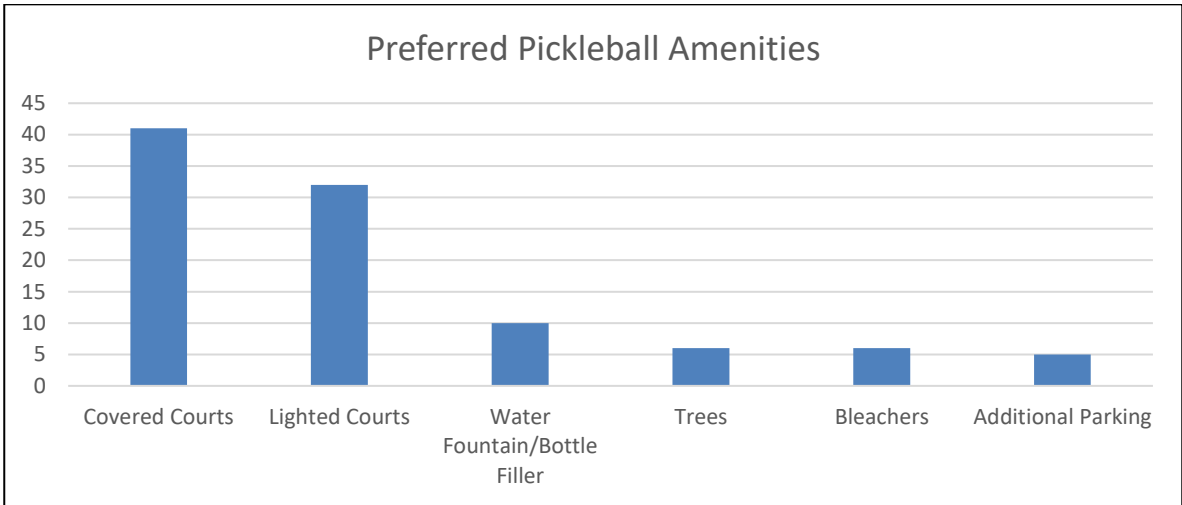


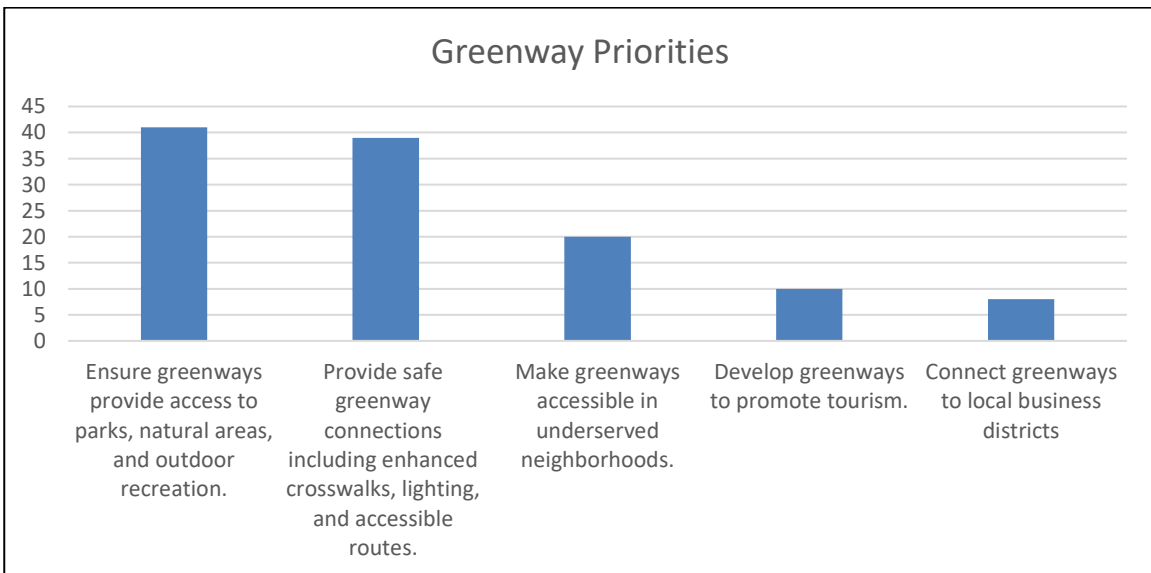
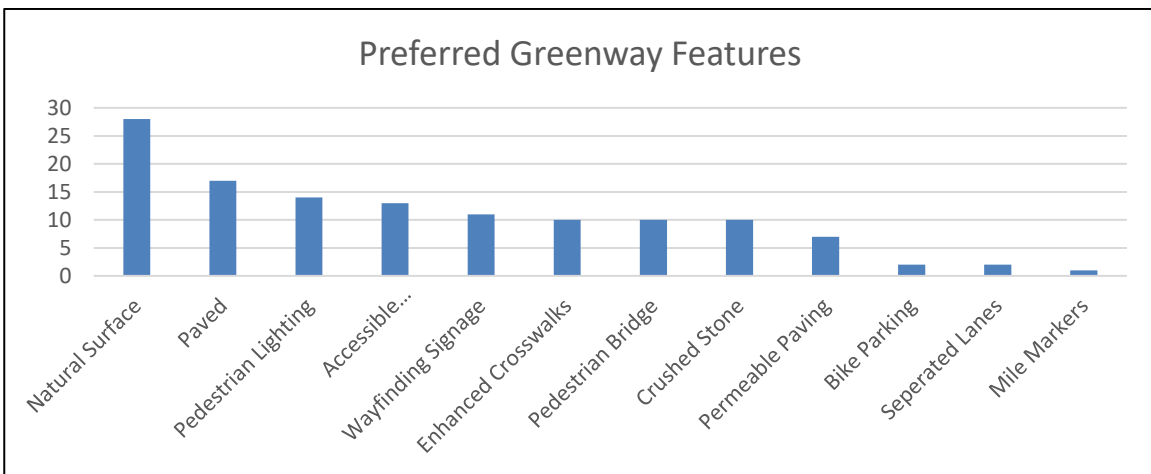
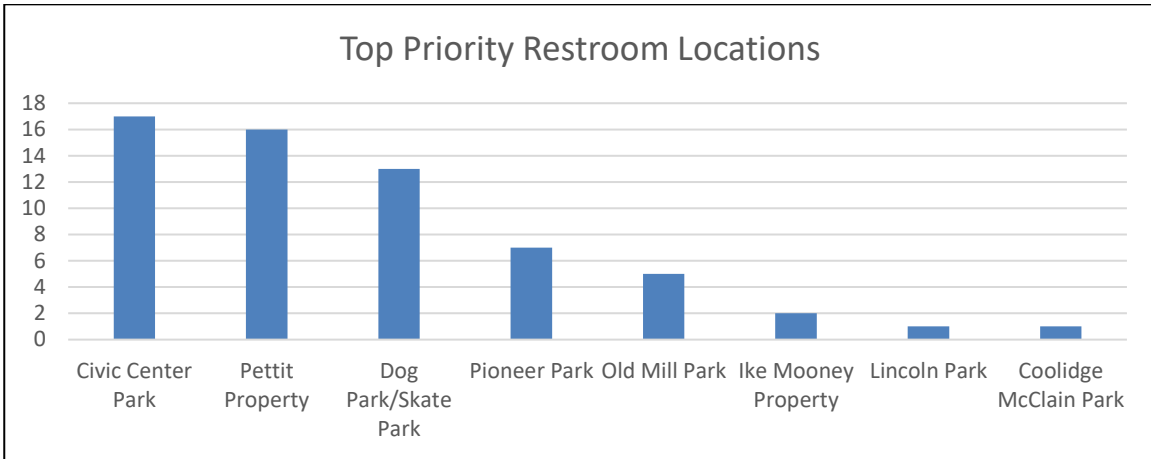


PICKLEBALL
115 WESTFIELD

CONCEPTUAL PLAN
CP1

8/15/23



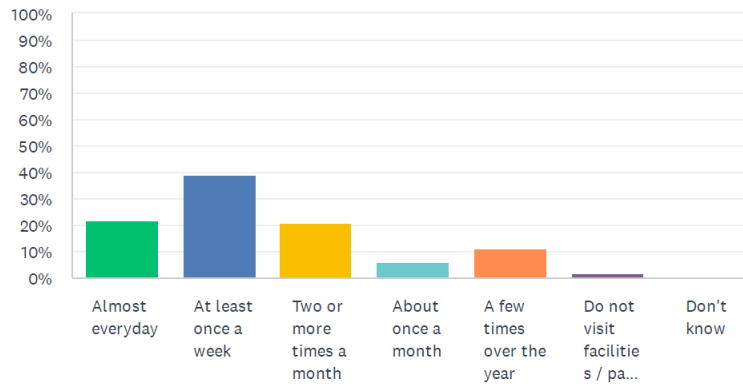


Public Survey

A public survey through Survey Monkey was conducted and 465 residents participated. A series of questions were asked to gauge current habits/participation, opinions of current facilities and programming, and to provide a list of most wanted items. The following are the results:

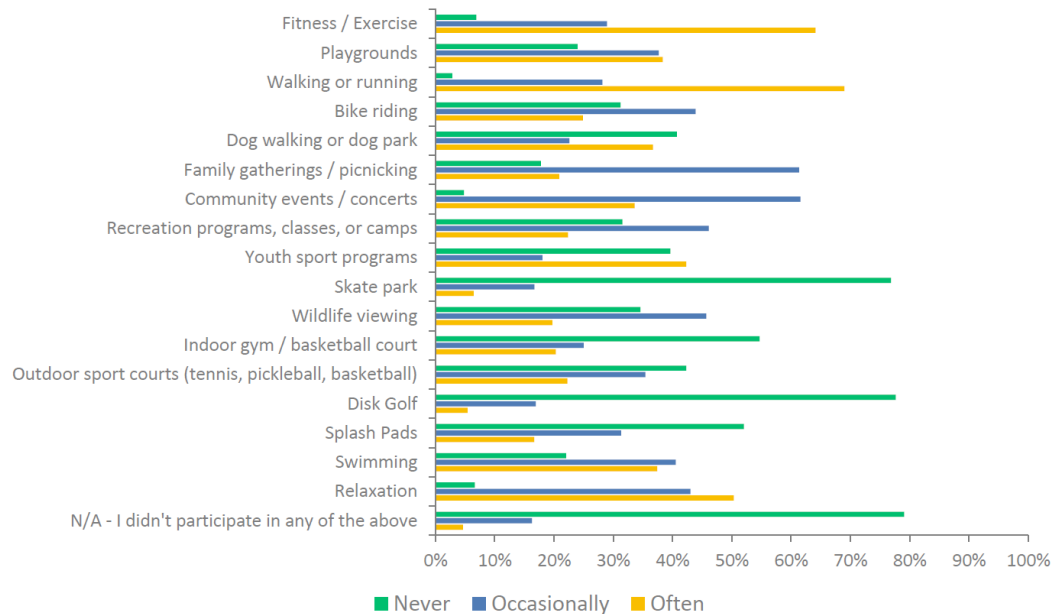
Q1 In a typical year, how often did you visit or use City of Silverton parks, recreation facilities or open space?

Answered: 463 Skipped: 2



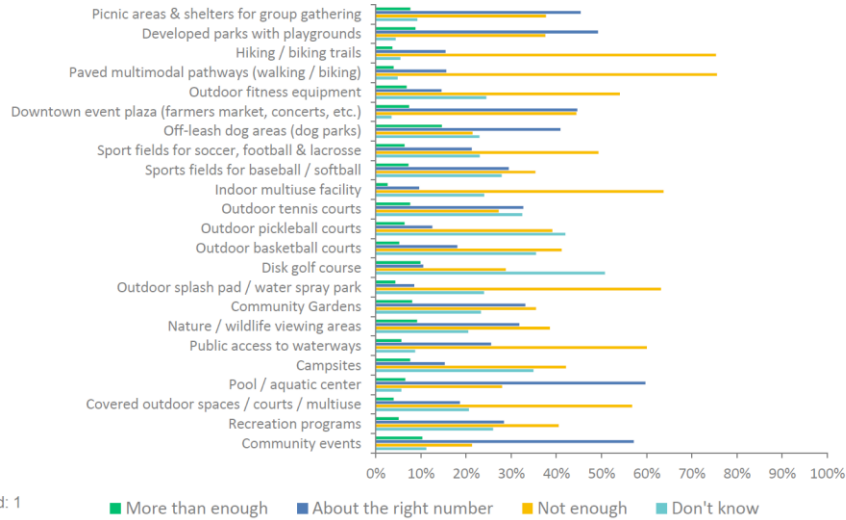
Q2: How many times a year do you participate in the following?

Answered: 464 Skipped: 1



Powered by SurveyMonkey

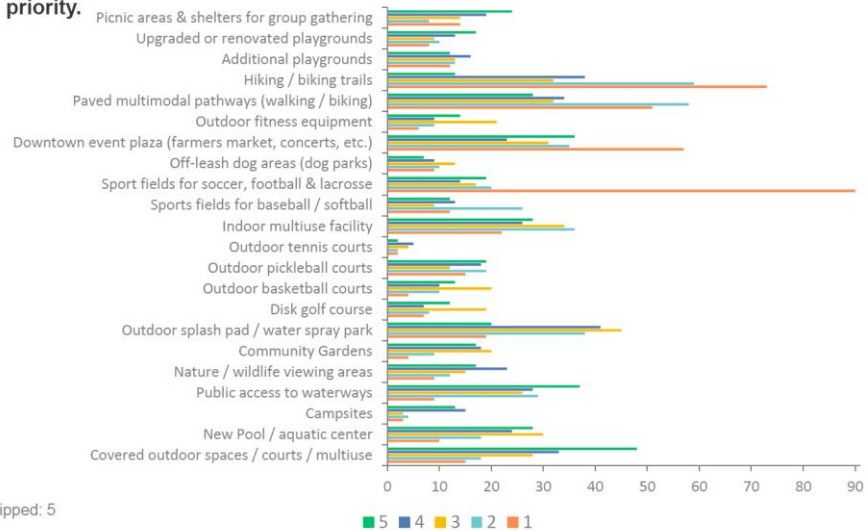
Q3: When it comes to meeting the needs for park and recreation facilities, how would you rate the availability of each of the following? (Check only one box in each row)



*Note – participants had the option to provide an “other” comment. Most respondents stated a need for:

1. A permanent farmer’s market location
2. Trails/greenways
3. Sports fields
4. Pickleball

Q4: The following list includes additional amenities the City of Silverton could consider adding to the park system. Choose your top 5 priorities ONLY from the list below and rank them in order with #1 being the top priority.

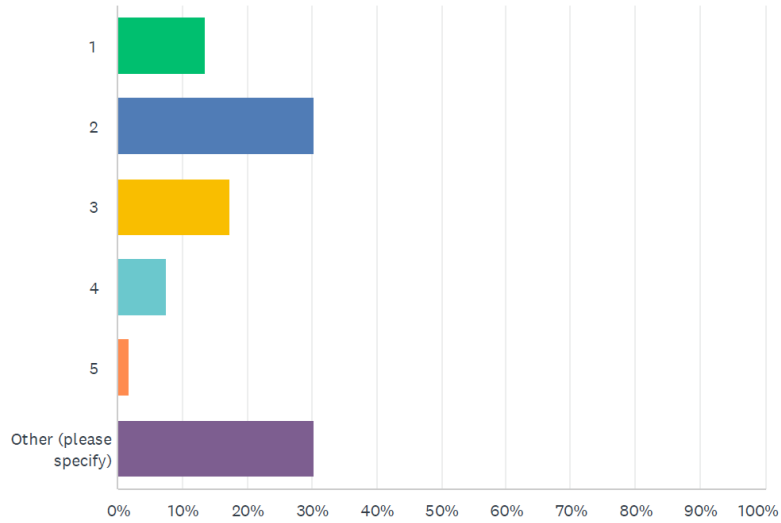


*Note – participants had the option to provide an “other” comment. Some comments are listed below:

1. More parking is needed at Silverton Reservoir & Marine Park.
2. Silverton needs more trees at the parks and in general.
3. The swimming pool needs longer hours.
4. All parks need bathrooms.

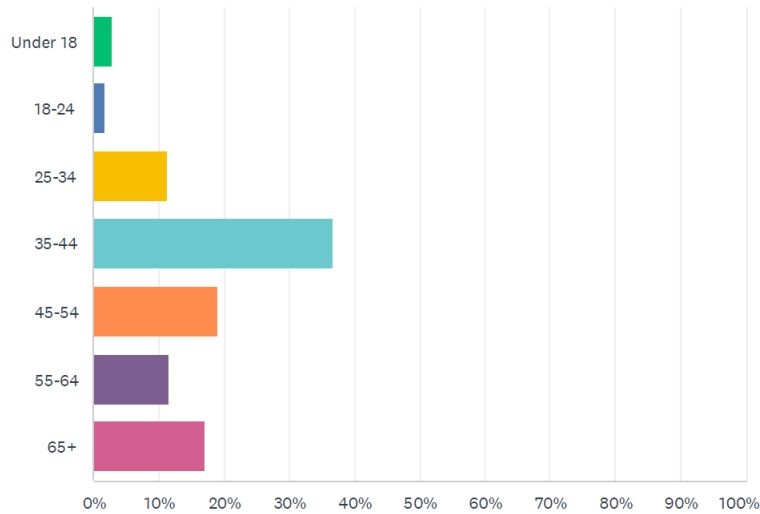
Q5 How many children under age 18 currently live in your household?

Answered: 434 Skipped: 31



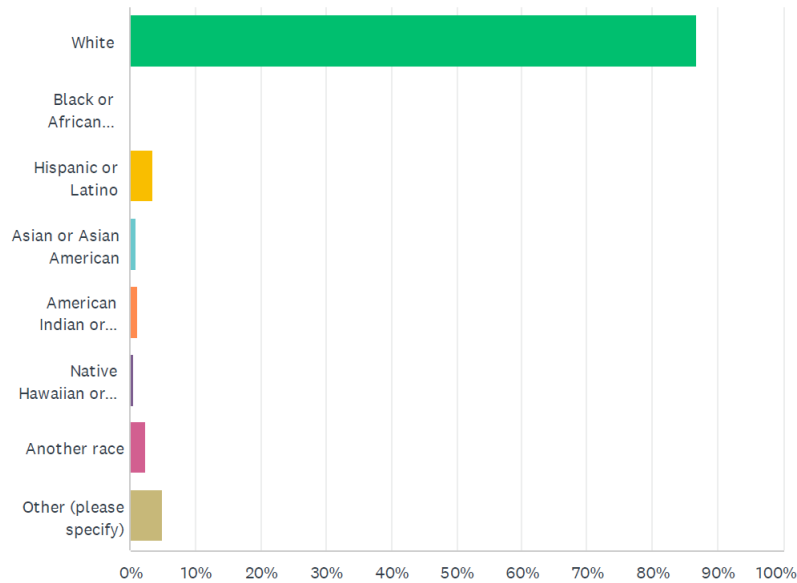
Q6 What is your age?

Answered: 463 Skipped: 2



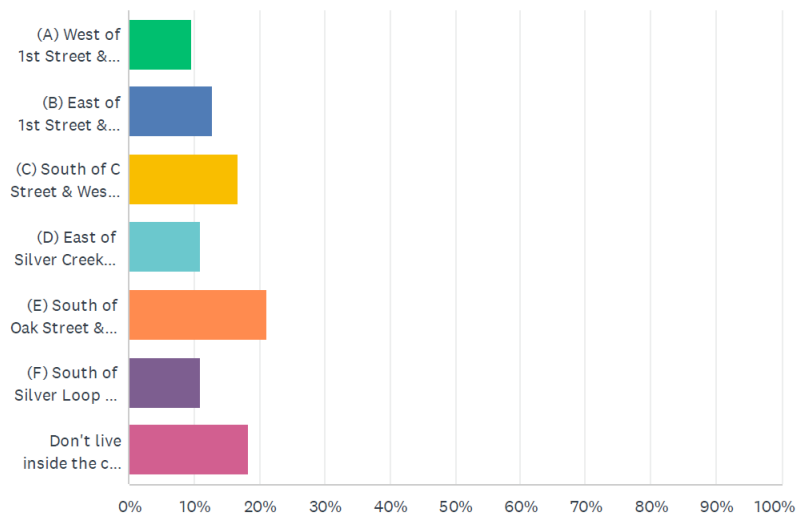
Q7 Are you White, Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, or some other race?

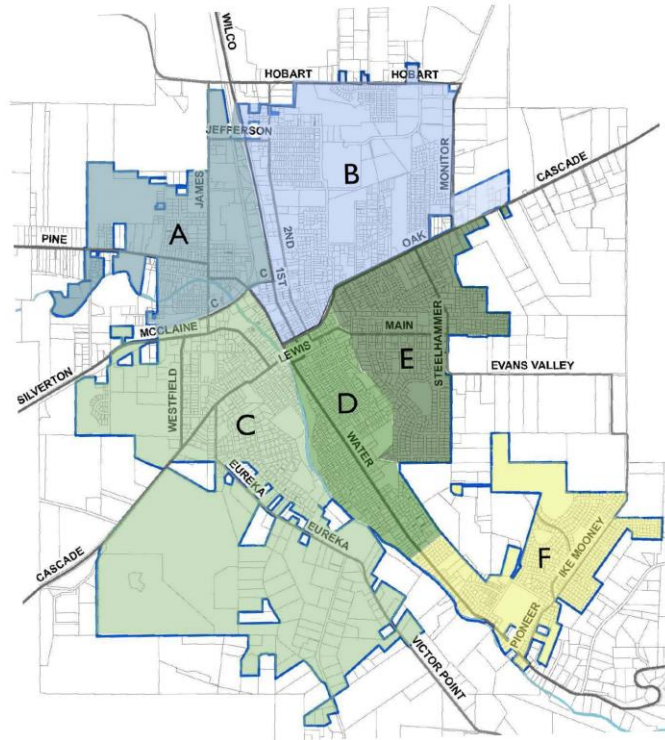
Answered: 449 Skipped: 16



Q8 Using the map below, in which section of the City do you live?

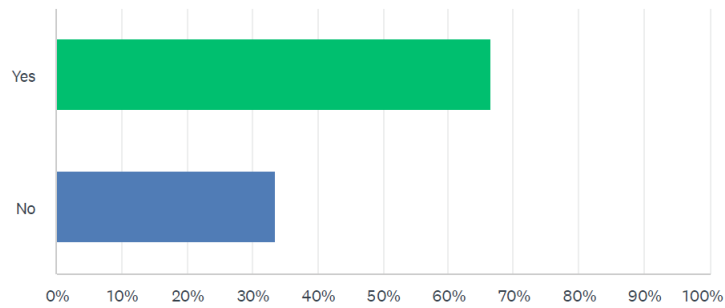
Answered: 464 Skipped: 1





Q9 Do you feel there is a park near enough to your home?

Answered: 455 Skipped: 10



Q10 Do you have any additional comments?

Answered: 177 Skipped: 288

**See Appendix E for responses.*

Major Community Outreach Findings

Major issues, concerns, and needs emerged through efforts to engage Silverton residents in the master planning process, and the results are summarized in these findings.

Finding 1: *Growth is shaping the character of the community, rather than Silverton’s heritage and special character guiding the course of new development and change. Residents want greenspace effectively incorporated into the community.*

Finding 2: *New subdivisions are deficient in public parks and open spaces, and private common areas have shortcomings in meeting neighborhood park and recreation requirements.*

Finding 3. *Residents place a high priority on retaining the special character and charm of the community – highly valued are historic Coolidge McClaine Park, Silver Creek, ridgeline greenspace and scenic views, historic downtown, and existing school sites and sports facilities.*

Finding 4. *Multi-use trails and pathways are important for health and fitness, connecting neighborhoods and maintaining a sense of community, providing access to nature, and reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.*

Finding 5. *School grounds and sports facilities are valued for after-school, community use, requiring a stronger partnership between the City and School District.*

Finding 6. *Playable and well-maintained sports facilities are needed to support a high demand for youth sports programs; existing school playfields need renovating and upgrading.*

Finding 7. *Recreation opportunities are lacking for youth.*

Finding 8. *The Silverton Community Center is not functional as a recreation center in its present condition; it is a former National Guard Armory constructed in 1925.*

Finding 9. *The Silverton Community Swimming Pool is a traditional pool with a design that limits its use for water play and family aquatic activities-*

Finding 10. *Volunteer participation in Silverton is at a high level; however, volunteer burn-out is a concern. Many community celebrations, special events, and the arts are strong traditions that contribute to Silverton’s livability.*

B. Greenspace System Analysis

A comprehensive analysis was conducted to assess strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities and threats of Silverton’s parks and greenspaces. Results of this assessment are indicators of community needs with respect to the physical system and its major components.

Park, Open Space, and Greenspace System

The Silverton parks and open space system was analyzed using the concept of “Green Infrastructure” (see Map 2). This approach considers both physical and ecological qualities of the community’s landscape so that parks, open space, school sites, and natural features are viewed as “greenspaces” and the framework for a “Greenspace Network.”

Strengths

Silverton’s existing open space system represents key elements for establishing a comprehensive greenspace network that will help protect community assets and natural resources and make a

commitment to “Green Infrastructure” (see Table 6). The City of Silverton has assembled and improved public greenspaces, worked with others such as The Oregon Garden Foundation, and has aggressively pursued funding alternatives. Community volunteers have been involved in extensive habitat restoration, demonstrating a commitment to protecting greenspace values.

The strong core of the park and open space system is historic Coolidge McClaine Park and the linear greenspace and pathway along Silver Creek, connecting the library, city hall, community pool, and downtown. Though relatively small, the forested park has functioned as the Silverton area’s community gathering place and recreation site for over 100 years. The historic flourmill site on the creek is memorialized, and the Town Square site serves as a gateway into the downtown.

Four large public-school sites are located geographically throughout the city and have an important role in providing greenspace, playgrounds and sports fields in Silverton’s neighborhoods that lack access to public parks and public open space.

A major strength of Silverton’s greenspace system is The Oregon Garden, a tourist attraction located on a large, picturesque site near downtown. Managed as a demonstration garden and visitor center and combined with the adjoining City-owned Pettit property including a small lake and surrounding natural area, this is an outstanding greenspace complex.

Table 6: Strengths and Weaknesses - Public Greenspaces

| Strengths | Description |
|--|---|
| Silver Creek Linear Greenspace Downtown | Linear greenspace part of the strong downtown core Demonstration greenway/pathway along Silver Creek Historic features celebrated - Flour Mill |
| Historic Coolidge & McClaine Park | Vibrant downtown park on Silver Creek, forest canopy Community & regional gathering place; site for celebrations Donated in 1909; historic features (entry) |
| Large School Sites | Large sites, geographically distributed throughout most of city Sports facilities, open space, gyms accessible to community Current school policy supports community use |
| Pettit Property Greenspace | Large natural area and small lake representative of the urban landscape near downtown, acquired by City |
| Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park | Large, picturesque lake and waterfront park for non-motorized boating and fishing; accessible fishing platform; nature trails |
| The Oregon Garden | Demonstration public gardens, visitor and meeting facilities, environmental education, special events and celebrations, Adjacent resort hotel; regional tourist attraction, City support |
| Volunteer Contributions | Volunteer efforts to remove ivy and restore habitats Volunteer fundraising, donated materials, and development of Town Square site and Coolidge McClaine Park |
| Weaknesses | Description |
| Deficiency of Public Parks | Lack of neighborhood parks, especially on the east side; private common areas mostly small High cost to maintain small parks Growth areas not meeting neighborhood park needs Private common area amenities cannot be used by the public |
| Overuse of Coolidge McClaine Park | Only one major park; indicators of overuse and ecosystem stress |
| Unclear Role of Public Schools | School grounds and facilities have default role due to lack of parks |
| Lack of Connectivity Physical Barriers | Schools, parks, and open spaces not connected, other than downtown Roadway barriers, rail lines, Silver Creek, and ridgelines hinder walkability and bicycling |
| Lack of Scenic Views and Uplands | No upland areas and viewpoints part of the public greenspace system Areas identified in Silverton Comprehensive Plan are being lost |
| Silver Creek Potential Not Realized | Silver Creek is more physical barrier than integral part of greenspace Recreation use of Silver Creek not promoted or facilitated |
| Underutilized Greenspaces | City's recreational and open space sites not fully utilized and accessible - Silverton Reservoir & Marine Park, Pettit property, Ike Mooney property. |

Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park, located in the upper reach of the Silver Creek corridor, provides waterfront recreation opportunities, a fishing platform designed for persons with disabilities, and non-motorized boating opportunities in a very scenic setting. An informal trail extends around a part of the

lake. Community volunteers have demonstrated their interest and commitment to maintain healthy ecosystems, with extensive manual removal of noxious English ivy from the Douglas-fir trees in Coolidge McClaine Park and restoring native riparian vegetation along Silver Creek.

Weaknesses

The major weaknesses in Silverton’s public greenspace system are a lack of neighborhood and community parks, and a lack of connectivity between schools, parks, and open spaces (see Table 6).

The City has relied in large part on private common areas owned by homeowners to fulfill neighborhood park and open space requirements, and while they serve some purpose in that regard, they are not accessible to the broader community and are therefore limited in role and function. Additionally, since Coolidge McClaine Park is the community’s primary park, it is being “loved to death” with large community celebrations and events with potential threats to the site’s ecosystem health (described later under “Threats”). Development of new parks is needed to help alleviate this threat.

Physical barriers such as Silver Creek, major thoroughfares, rail lines, and ridgelines impact walkability and bicycling, although the City’s Transportation System Plan recommends a multi-use trail system including off-street routes to address these problems.

School grounds, playgrounds, and playfields function in large part as de facto public parks and open space.

Although the Silverton Comprehensive Plan identified significant upland areas as having scenic and open space values, the City’s greenspace system includes none of these areas. Additionally, Silver Creek, Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park, Pettit property, and the Ike Mooney property represent outstanding recreation and open space potential and are underutilized.

Opportunities

Fortunately, many outstanding opportunities exist to correct weaknesses and deficiencies in Silverton’s greenspace system (see Table 7). Much of the city’s natural landscape and habitats are still intact, and the City has boldly acquired, enhanced, and developed several of these areas.

Silver Creek has the potential to function as the spine of the community with greenway and multi-use trail enhancements. Opportunities are available to connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods with a combination of on street and off-street trails, pathways, and public access easements.

The City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant is in a bend on the north bank of Silver Creek, and a sizable riparian forest is an opportunity area for public access and open space. Eastward along the creek, riparian habitat is high quality and an opportunity area to acquire land or negotiate easements for greenway and multi-use trail purposes.

Table 7: Opportunities and Threats – Public Greenspaces

| Opportunities | Description |
|---|--|
| Silver Creek Potential Greenway | Outstanding scenic & recreational resource as potential greenway Major role in downtown revitalization, greenway demonstration area Wastewater Treatment Plan is opportunity area for creek access; open space Transportation Plan recommends multi-use trail along Silver Creek corridor |
| Ridgeline and Hillside Open Space | Undeveloped, forested ridgeline and hillside is an Opportunity Area Viewshed protection, conservation easements, trails, forestland protection. A connection between Pioneer and Abiqua Heights is recommended along the hillside. |
| Connections and Linkages | Multi-use trails along rail lines and Silver Creek corridor Extending pathway south of Coolidge McClaine Park along Silver Creek Trail easements & access areas along streets ending at Silver Creek Trails along existing City property, e.g. Wastewater Treatment Plant Trails along utility corridors Trail connections to downtown and Oregon Garden/Pettit property |
| Maintain Healthy Urban Ecosystems Natural Area Management | Restoring and providing educational opportunities within inventoried wetlands and other natural areas, including City-owned lands and collaboration with private landowners Volunteer support for restoring natural habitats and ecosystems, building trails (e.g. Silverton Reservoir, Pettit Property) Acquiring representative landscapes, e.g. uplands, wetlands Identify areas to plant native vegetation for long term sustainability, prevent weed overgrowth and erosion. |
| Threats | Description |
| Loss of Natural Open Space, Habitats | Growth and current development patterns threaten opportunities to preserve and acquire last remaining natural open space and viewsheds |
| Loss of Silverton’s Special Character | Without accelerated parkland acquisition, opportunities will be lost to meet critical needs for neighborhood and community parks |
| Loss of Park Acquisition Opportunities | Without accelerated parkland acquisition, opportunities will be lost to meet critical needs for neighborhood and community parks |
| High Cost to Maintain Small Parks | Below-standard, small parks create high maintenance costs Economy-of-scale impacts on City can be excessive |
| Traffic Congestion, Air Pollution, Loss of Health Benefits | Without pedestrian and bicycle opportunities, residents will experience increased traffic congestion, few opportunities for fitness and exercise, loss of sense of community |
| Stresses on Existing Parks, Open Spaces, and School Sites | Without an organized system of connected, well-functioning and well-maintained greenspaces, conditions of these sites will deteriorate, conflicts will develop among potential partners |
| Lack of Maintenance Staff | Currently there is not enough city staff to properly absorb the maintenance needs of new parks and facilities. |

A major opportunity area is located along the ridgeline east of South Water Street, with potential for viewshed protection, negotiating scenic and trail access easements, and protecting some of the last remaining forested upland inside the city limits.

Inventory wetlands, Silver Creek, the Pettit property, and Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park all represent outstanding opportunities for natural area management, habitat restoration, and outdoor education. Current volunteer efforts have potential to be expanded, creating a stronger stewardship and sustainability ethic through hands-on involvement of the community.

Threats

Several prevailing trends are threats to Silverton establishing a strong and viable greenspace system of parks, open spaces, and natural areas (see Table 7). First and foremost is the loss of natural open space and last remaining significant habitats if growth and development continue to shape the future character of the community.

If an active, creative, and comprehensive approach is not taken to acquire needed community and neighborhood parkland, not only will future residents be deprived of park and recreation benefits, but existing parks and open spaces will be impaired due to overuse and inability to maintain them at high standards. For example, with continued use of Coolidge McClaine Park beyond its carrying capacity, the tree canopy will be weakened, and natural values impacted beyond their ability to recover.

Benefits of an integrated and connected greenspace system will be foregone if there continues to be dependence on the automobile for transportation, and disparate parts of the open space system continue to function as they are now. Silverton will also lose the opportunity to continue to develop a sense of community and neighborliness.

Additionally, if formal agreements are not established to develop strong community partnerships that enable an integrated and well-maintained greenspace system, conflicts will intensify among managing agencies, and it will be difficult to maintain an effective and efficient system.

C. Park and Facility Conditions Analysis

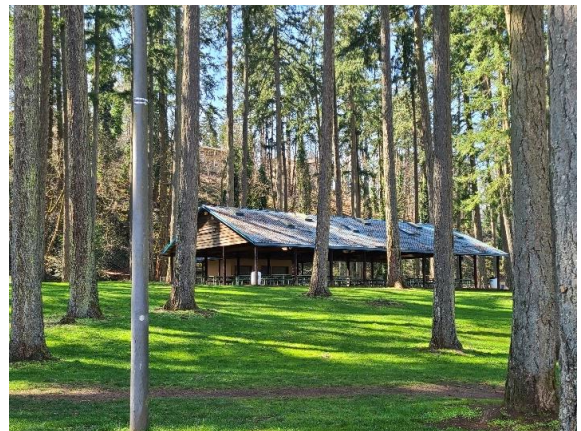
The conditions analysis complemented the system analysis by assessing functional capacity, capability, and quality of each of Silverton's parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Factors such as patron enjoyment and convenience, safety, maintenance and infrastructure condition, resource protection, aesthetics, and design were considered.

Park and Open Spaces

Assessments were conducted for Silverton's eight developed parks and open spaces, using an evaluation instrument to rate 17 factors at each site. From this data, strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities and threats were developed.

Strengths

Silverton's developed parks and open spaces are in good physical condition and reflect a high level of care and maintenance (see Table 8). Parks are clean and safe, and there is little evidence of vandalism or litter.



Although park facilities are aging, they have served the community well. With a growing and active community, parks are a valuable resource that will require necessary attention to keep up with the ever-changing demographics.

Table 8: Strengths and Weakness - Individual Parks, Open Spaces

| Strengths | Description |
|--|---|
| Parks Maintained Well | Developed parks & open spaces are in good condition, mostly free of litter/vandalism Dog litter bags provided |
| Volunteer and Community Support Exceptional | Civic clubs, businesses, volunteers provide high level of support Donations, labor to upgrade and improve parks and open spaces Habitat restoration in Coolidge McClaine Park and on Silver Creek. More staff is recommended for long term upkeep. |
| Park Upgrades and Renovation | New restrooms installed at Coolidge McClaine Park, new all abilities playground at Old Mill Park, new dog park and skate park at the senior center site. |
| Weaknesses | Description |
| Aging Infrastructure | Most park deficiencies due to aging facilities Some infrastructure at end of useful life Lack of planning and design. The older restroom at Coolidge McClaine Park needs upgraded and additional maintenance. |
| Park Overuse and Under-use | Coolidge McClaine Park overused; loss of understory vegetation Silverton Reservoir & Marine Park underutilized; parking constraints; lack of formal trail development, poor signage. An irrigation audit for water efficiency is recommended. |
| Sign Clutter, Design Weaknesses | Several entryways uninviting; poorly executed; lack of amenities |
| Connectivity Lacking | Poor connections between Silver Creek, civic buildings, downtown Silver Creek pathway disappears at City Hall parking lot Unsafe, informal creek trail south of Coolidge McClaine Park |
| Uncontrolled Invasive Vegetation | Infestations include Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, English Ivy Some sites have serious invasions, affecting tree health No formal program for noxious weed removal/restoration on City land Lack of a community educational program Using an integrated management program would be key to implement for overall environmental safety and protection. |
| Lack of Interpretive & Educational Programs | Few educational displays and interpretive information Lack of historical, cultural, and ecological information No formal outdoor classrooms in Silverton due to funding constraints Outdoor education area at Robert Frost School was not sustained |

Upgrades and improvements have often been made by community volunteers and through partnership efforts with businesses, civic clubs, and others. Excellent examples include Town Square Park development on Silver Creek, playground renovation in Coolidge McClaine Park, Lincoln Park, All-Abilities Park, and habitat restoration along Silver Creek.

Although most of Silverton’s parks and open space have been developed and improved without master plans and professional design, most decisions have been sound.

Weaknesses

Weaknesses in Silverton’s parks and open spaces are largely due to lack of professional planning and design, aging infrastructure, and overuse of Coolidge McClaine Park (see Table 8). As the community’s only large community park, Coolidge McClaine is exceeding its carrying capacity, especially due to the

large number of community events and celebrations. The creation of new parks can help to alleviate overuse.

Connectivity is also lacking along Silver Creek through the City Hall parking lot, and legible connections to the downtown core are weak. South of Coolidge McClaine Park, the informal trail along the steep east bank of Silver Creek is unsafe in places. Clearing of heavy vegetation, trees and erosion control may be necessary to achieve connected pathways in areas.

Although volunteers have made major inroads at Coolidge McClaine Park by removing English ivy that once threatened health of Douglas-fir trees on the adjacent hillside, noxious vegetation is taking a strong foothold and spreading throughout the Silverton park and open space system. Areas of infestation include along Silver Creek in the downtown and at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and throughout the wetland adjacent to The Oregon Garden where Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry dominate the site.

Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park is underutilized, with no formal trail along the surrounding forested waterfront, lack of picnic facilities, and parking lot issues including legal ownership, insufficient parking, and unfiltered drainage. The city could investigate park and ride options during certain periods to offset the onsite parking issues.

Given the outstanding cultural, historical, and ecological values in Silverton’s parks and open spaces, there is a lack of interpretive displays and educational information provided to patrons.

Opportunities

Many opportunities exist to upgrade and enhance Silverton’s parks and open spaces (see Table 9). Moreover, there are excellent prospects for creating more vibrant and functional parks and open spaces because of many sound management decisions that have been made in the past.

Table 9: Opportunities and Threats - Individual Parks, Open Spaces

| Opportunities | Description |
|---|---|
| Coolidge McClaine Park/Silver Creek Greenway | Vibrant downtown park and community gathering place Celebrating park history and Silver Creek Demonstration area for Silver Creek greenway and multi-use trail Major element of downtown revitalization project |
| Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park | Potential regional waterfront park Land and water-based recreation opportunities for residents & visitors. |
| Connectivity | Silver Creek Greenway and Coolidge McClaine Park have potential to demonstrate connectivity and initial off-street trails for walkability and bicycling. Donated old railroad land north of the elementary school provides linkage opportunities. Hillside areas between Pioneer and Abiqua provide link opportunities. |
| Connect Youth and Community with Nature | Volunteer efforts to remove noxious vegetation, habitat restoration and Interpretive displays such as the Fischer Flourmill site Potential for connecting community and youth to history and nature |
| Pettit Natural Area | High quality nature recreation and education opportunities Potential demonstration site; grant opportunities |

| | |
|--|--|
| Ike Mooney Property | Donation of 40 acres of land along Ike Mooney Road provides an opportunity for a community park. |
| Threats | Description |
| Lack of Staff and Organizational Structure | Without adequate staffing and leadership responsibility, system integrity could be compromised due to deferred maintenance and crisis management |
| Decision-making Not Integrated | Indicators of planning and improving individual parks in isolation of a system plan and policies, creating conflicts and inefficiencies |
| Lack of Integration with Other City Plans and Development | Transportation Plan and Downtown Master Plan are integral to the City's future park and open space system Potential negative impacts of Growth and development on parks and open spaces, connectivity |
| Fragmented Community Engagement | Fragmented volunteer efforts and lack of formal partnerships show evidence of burn-out High potential for conflicting missions and tension among partners |

Historic Coolidge McClaine Park and the public greenway/pathway along Silver Creek could be the crown jewel of Silverton, functioning not only as the central gathering place but also a major part of the revitalization of downtown.

The Petitt property has outstanding potential to complement The Oregon Garden and serve as a high quality, close-in natural area, providing opportunities for nature recreation, education, and solitude.

Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park could be transformed into a major regional waterfront park, providing non-motorized boating and passive recreation opportunities that are becoming rather scarce and yet very popular in Oregon.

Given its strong volunteer commitment, Silverton could work with the School District and other community organizations to expand hands-on habitat restoration, develop educational programs and outdoor classrooms, and reverse the trend of noxious vegetation spreading throughout the parks and open space system.

Silverton's abundant historic, cultural, and natural resources have excellent potential for developing a strong interpretive program and providing information to enhance experiences of park users and visitors to the community.

Threats

Threats to Silverton's parks and open spaces are primarily due to shortfalls in staff and resources to maintain parks and open spaces at a high level, and fragmented decision-making (see Table 9).

Management responsibilities appear diffused throughout the City's organization, and there is a lack of integrated effort to plan, improve and maintain parks and recreation facilities.

If these trends continue, integrity of the system will be compromised, partners will be inclined to work at cross purposes, crisis management will become a norm, and there will be burn-out that could affect morale of staff and partners.

Recreation Facilities

The City of Silverton owns and maintains the community swimming pool and the senior center. The city also has an agreement with the school district for the use of their recreation facilities.

Strengths

In 2019 an Existing Conditions Analysis and Recommendations Plan for the community swimming pool was created to evaluate several factors including overall condition. The swimming pool is well maintained and has been a community quality of life asset for many generations. The covered pool has a rectangular shape with six lanes. The cover allows for year-round use, and it was replaced in 2019.



The senior center offers services for Silverton’s growing older adult population. They provide a variety of programs, classes and support services including Meals on Wheels, yoga, and technology bootcamp. The facility can be rented by any age group for special events and the great room can accommodate 80 guests.

Baseball, soccer, and softball facilities are located at the elementary, middle, and high school sites.

Table 10: Strengths and Weaknesses – Recreation Facilities

| Strengths | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Senior Center | Provides programs for residents 50 and over and facilities can be rented to the public. |
| Community Sports Complex | Sports fields at Silverton H.S. can be used for community use New fields will and help meet the needs for soccer, baseball, and multi-use |
| Weaknesses | Description |
| Outdated Community Swimming Pool | Primarily a traditional pool for lap swimming, fitness, swim lessons; limited family water play opportunities Future enhancements for water play activities would impact Silver Creek greenspace |
| Lack of a Recreation Center | The community lacks a recreation center, and the need has become greater with the planned termination of the Community Center lease. |
| Aging School Sports Facilities | Substandard existing sports fields at elementary and middle schools, some with hazardous conditions; lack irrigation, drain poorly |

Weaknesses

The swimming pool is 86 years old and therefore was not designed to accommodate family water play, water therapy, and water fitness programs that today’s leisure pools provide. The pool tends to facilitate mostly pool rentals, followed by open swim, lap swimming, and water fitness. In addition, the pool is past the normal service life cycle expectations and any renovations must keep this reality in focus.

The elementary and middle school sports facilities are aging with some hazardous conditions; they lack irrigation and drain poorly.

Opportunities

Opportunities for improving or replacing the existing swimming facility are more long range than of a short-term nature due to the age and high cost for replacement, renovation, or retrofitting (see Table 11).

Table 11: Opportunities and Threats - Recreation Facilities

| Opportunities | Description |
|---|--|
| Continue to Upgrade Existing Pool; Explore Options | Explore opportunities to add family water play elements, concessions, outdoor facilities to existing pool Explore alternative location and feasibility of new leisure pool in partnership with the School District and others |
| New Recreation Center | Explore feasibility of a new recreation center in collaboration with a local partner(s). |
| Develop Community Sports Complex | New community sports facilities have potential for becoming first phase of a regional sports complex, serving Silverton and nearby communities, and meeting shortfall of sports fields Economic benefits from visitors to Silverton |
| Improve School Sports Facilities | Partnering with the School District to upgrade and renovate existing sports fields at school sites |
| Threats | Description |
| Continue to Operate Old, Inefficient Facilities | Limited recreation benefits of the community pool. High cost per participant to maintain and operate. Limited revenue potential Revenue producing goals over-ride community access, needs |
| Aging, Unusable Sports Facilities | Deferred maintenance is high cost Potential risk to users without irrigation, good drainage Youth and adult sports needs continue to be unmet |

Given trends in family water play, water therapy, and water fitness, there is an opportunity to explore alternatives for the existing Community Swimming Pool. An update to the feasibility study should be undertaken with the cooperation of others with mutual potential benefits, such as the School District.

Due to both economic and social benefits, the trend is to avoid stand-alone indoor recreation facilities and senior centers, but to design them as part of a community complex. With the senior center, an opportunity exists to design a future phase to accommodate a new recreation center at the same location.

Threats

Threats to Silverton’s recreation facilities are mainly the high cost of maintaining and operating an older, traditional swimming pool that has limited recreation value (see Table 11). Over time, the financial drain on the community’s operating budget can be substantial, with opportunities foregone to offset costs with revenue from more viable facilities.

Because community sports fields are not designed to high standards for year-around community use, Silverton stands to lose the opportunity to provide needed sports facilities for youth and adults.

If existing sports fields are not renovated and upgraded at the school sites, maintenance and operations costs will be excessive, potential risk to those using the fields will increase, and youth and adult sports will continue to be unmet.

D. Recreation Programs and Services Analysis

Given the collaborative, community approach for providing recreation programs and services to Silverton residents, the master plan process relied in large part on the major providers to help assess strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities and threats.

Highlighted here are features that are considered important for the analysis.

Silverton Community Pool

Under contract with the City, the Silver Falls YMCA manages the 33-meter community pool. Aquatics programs include swim lessons, water exercise, lap swim, pool rentals, and open recreational swims. The School District has an agreement for use of the pool by the high school swim team; swim clubs also use the pool. The facility includes ADA accessibility, movable bulkhead, a shallow zero to 3-foot separate pool, tube slide, and family changing rooms.

Silverton Senior Center

A benchmark in the history of the Silverton Area Seniors program that grew out of the Meals on Wheels program in 1955. The senior center opened approximately 13 years ago, and its' mission is to provide social, educational, health-related, and recreational opportunities in a safe, courteous, and inclusive environment for area residents aged 50 and over. The senior center provides a variety of programs, classes and support services including Meals on Wheels, yoga, and technology bootcamp. The facility can be rented by any age group for special events and the great room can accommodate 80 guests.

Art Center, Education Center

The Silverton Arts Association operates two small buildings in Coolidge McClaine Park, one serving as the Arts Center and Gallery, and the other functioning as a 625 ft. classroom for arts classes for children, teens, and adults.

Transportation – Silver Trolley

The Silver Trolley provides demand-responsive transportation to the Silverton area. The goal of the service is to ensure that seniors, disabled, special needs population, youth, and the public have transportation that allows access to facilities and services throughout the city. Donations are encouraged.

Special Events and Celebrations

For its size, a remarkable number of special events and celebrations are held each year. The Fine Arts Festival is a large event that attracts visitors from the Pacific Northwest; other celebrations include the Pet Parade, Homer Davenport Days, Free Fish Day, Celebrate Families Community Picnic, Strawberry Festival, Sidewalk Shindig, Senior Follies, and First Friday.

Recreation Program Participation

The 2022 total attendance at the Community Pool was 12,067 (see Table 12). The numbers had significantly dropped due to the Coronavirus pandemic resulting in statistics that are not typical. Pool rentals before the

pandemic were the leading use of participation, and less than ¼ of the attendance was open or recreational swim. There was some anecdotal evidence that pool rentals were preempting scheduled open swim time at the pool.

**Table 12: Silverton Community Swimming Pool Attendance
2022**

| Open Swim | Lap Swim | Aqua Fitness | Swim Lessons | Swim Teams | Pool Rentals | TOTAL |
|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| 5400 | 3600 | 1800 | 770 | 395 | 102 | 12,067 |

Source: Silver Falls YMCA

In 2022 the Silver Falls YMCA offered recreation programs and activities to 2,903 people (see Table 13). This data indicates that most of the Y’s programs consist of recreational sports activities, with pickleball attracting the most participants.

**Table 13: Silver Falls YMCA Recreation Program Participation
2022**

| Soccer | Basketball | Pickleball | Volleyball | Cross Country Track/Field | Flag Football | TOTAL |
|--------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 181 | 446 | 2000 | 84 | 125 | 67 | 2,903 |

Source: Silver Falls YMCA

In addition to the Y’s sports programs, representatives from the sports community indicate that soccer and baseball are their two most popular youth programs, managed by the Soccer Club and the Junior Baseball Organization. The Soccer Club has approximately 360 participants and youth baseball have 275 members. Girls fast-pitch softball is offered to approximately 100 girls, as well as youth football.

Strengths

One of the most unique and special qualities of the Silverton community is the extent of its recreation and sports delivery system, with many partners who provide high quality services (see Table 14). Strengths include a strong youth sports program for boys and girls, community use of sports facilities, direct and indirect support from the City, and large number of community celebrations and events that take place annually.

Table 14: Strengths and Weaknesses - Recreation Programs and Services

| Strengths | Description |
|---|--|
| Strong Youth Recreation and Sports Program | An extensive community network provides a wide variety of youth sports and recreation programs Volunteers, NGO staff, coaches, and vendors are hardworking and dedicated, work as informal cooperative Local businesses sponsor sports teams; scholarships |
| Community Emphasis on Well-being | Strengthening families and children is a legacy of Silverton High priority placed on recreation and sports |
| City is Supportive Community Partner | City provides support services to community recreation City maintains Community Pool and oversees YMCA management |
| Community Celebrations & Events | Large number of special events help create a sense of community Family enrichment opportunities |
| Community Use of School Facilities | School District supports community use of sports facilities at schools |
| Program Scholarships | YMCA offers scholarships to those who cannot afford program and class fees |
| Weaknesses | Description |
| Lack of Planning and Coordination | Indicators of programmatic stress - e.g. scheduling activities and events is overwhelming volunteers and community organizations Little information on community recreation needs; target groups |
| Conflicts Between Groups | As year-around sports becomes more popular, soccer, baseball, volleyball, and basketball are competing for sports fields and gym space Some tension between recreational and competitive sports Pool rentals preempt open swim time |
| Gaps in Services | Lack of opportunities for youth who seek non-sports activities Indoor gym space is inadequate for adult basketball Hispanic population is underserved Increased pool fees without YMCA membership |
| Poor Conditions of Sports Facilities | Sports representatives consider sports fields at Robert Frost and Mark Twain schools to be unplayable, and some view as unsafe |
| Families and Youth Travel Outside City | Due to lack of adequate sports facilities, many Silverton youth and families travel to other communities |
| Staff & Volunteer Burnout | Increasing demands placed on those who are organizing, planning, and overseeing recreation programs |
| Lack of Program Information | No central program guide to inform the community of programs, schedules, locations, costs |

Weaknesses

The major weakness in the present recreation service delivery system is in some respects a result of its success (see Table 14). The demand for recreation and sports opportunities has outgrown the informal cooperative that involves a wide array of non-profit organizations, clubs, coaches, vendors, and

volunteers.

As a result, there are increasing conflicts among providers over scheduling and use of sports fields, gaps in services are surfacing in terms of unserved target groups, and there is high potential for staff and volunteer burnout. Outdoor sports facilities continue to deteriorate and can potentially create unsafe conditions.

Without a central authority or overseer to help plan, organize, and coordinate an increasingly dynamic and fledging recreation delivery system, these shortcomings will continue to place additional stress on the system as the community grows.

Opportunities

A few opportunities exist to take corrective action and reduce weaknesses in the current recreation program (see Table 15). One solution would be to harness outstanding community partnerships and volunteers by creating City responsibility for leadership of the program. In this way, professional staff can assume accountability and direction for a fledgling program that can be expected to grow as the City expands.

Table 15: Opportunities and Threats – Recreation Programs and Services

| Opportunities | Description |
|---|--|
| Form a Coordinating Committee | At a minimum, a coordinating committee could improve communications and address critical issues with solutions |
| City Assume Leadership | It may be timely for the City to provide more leadership responsibility for overseeing the community’s recreation and service delivery |
| Create Parks and Recreation Department or other entity | New organizational structure could be a solution to overburdened City staff and community organizations |
| Build New Recreation Center | Work with community partners to build a new recreation center |
| Distribute Program Guide | Distribute quarterly community recreation information guide |
| Threats | Description |
| Potential for Crisis Management | Lack of organization, planning, and coordination will create a less responsive delivery system, putting out fires |
| Community Partners in Conflict | Partners working at cross purposes and in competition with each other instead of collaboratively |
| Staff and Volunteer Burnout | Human resources are the most important part of a service delivery program |
| Declining Community Support | Residents will seek other recreational opportunities |
| Risk Potential | Risk increases for potentially unsafe outdoor sports facilities |
| Loss of Community Center | Loss of use of an indoor gym facility. |

Threats

Threats to Silverton's recreation program include continued crisis management due to lack of organization, planning, and coordination of services (see Table 15). This can give rise to high potential for partners to work at cross purposes and in competition with each other. The upshot could be staff and volunteer burnout, declining community support, unmet recreation needs, and loss of revenue opportunities as well as opportunity to generate additional revenue. Risks also increase from potentially unsafe outdoor sports facilities.

E. Management and Operations Analysis

The City of Silverton's Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining and operating eight parks and a greenway, and the community swimming pool. Currently there is one Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) assigned to park maintenance, with seasonal support. No organization chart is available to specify this organizational structure including park maintenance and operations. Maintenance of the swimming pool is absorbed in the City's maintenance budget.

Volunteers are a growing part of the City's park management program, and existing staff take responsibility for organizing and directing volunteers. No City Council-appointed advisory board exists to oversee the parks and recreation programs and recommend and/or weigh in on policy decisions.

No formal maintenance management plans have been prepared for individual parks and facilities, although maintenance schedules and assessment of needs are part of the park maintenance program. Staff recognizes increasing demands placed on the City's park system and limited resources available to maintain high standards for park operations and maintenance. Moreover, staff are concerned that growth is creating a need for more parks and services.

Given the scarce resources and lean staff that are assigned to manage Silverton's parks and recreation facilities, it should be recognized that it is testimony to their dedication and stewardship that there is a remarkable foundation in place for the future.

Clearly, the building blocks are in place, positive relationships have been established among many partners and volunteers, and the City recognizes a need for capitalizing on its opportunities to solidly position itself for the future.

Tipping Point

The planning process has concluded that the City is at a tipping point in its history, and the demands, expectations, and growth of the community far exceed the capability and capacity of existing staff to manage a program of excellence.

If present trends continue, there will be fragmented decision-making, staff sometimes working at cross-purposes, staff burnout and morale problems, a tendency for crisis management rather than effective management, and deterioration in the quality of services and condition of facilities.

Increasing park and recreation demands will require a more comprehensive, formal structure for efficient and effective park operations in the future.

F. Recreation Trends and Standards

Fortunately, more research is available on recreation trends and needs than ever before, largely because of

the realization that recreation, parks, and open space have such powerful social, economic, environmental, and health benefits. Summarized here are trends that are considered important for Silverton.

Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation Surveys and Research

The Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation has been conducting outdoor recreation research for the last several years as the basis for updating the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). These research results are considered the most pertinent for the master plan.

Walking on sidewalks, walking on trails and paths, relaxing, and dog walking/ going to dog park were the top outdoor recreation activities that Oregonians participated in, as determined in 2017 (see Table 16).

Table 16. Top Five Oregon Recreation Activities State Residents

| Activity | Estimated Annual User Days (millions) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Walking on local streets / sidewalks | 313 |
| Walking on local trails / paths | 113 |
| Relaxing, hanging out | 93 |
| Dog walking / going to dog parks | 78 |
| Taking children to playground | 57 |

Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2019- 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The SCORP established these funding priorities for Marion County: (1) Day-use hiking; (2) Connecting trails into larger trail systems, and (3) Group campgrounds and facilities. These priorities should be considered in applying for state grants.

The most recent research conducted by the State focused on five demographic and social changes facing recreation providers in the coming years. These include:

- Rapidly Aging Oregon Population
- Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills
- Increasingly Diverse Oregon Population
- An Underserved Low-Income Population
- Health Benefits of Physical Activity

Connecting Children and Nature

Richard Louv’s book “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature- Deficit Disorder” directly links the absence of nature in the lives of children with trends in the rise of obesity, attention disorders, and depression.

Declining Participation in Senior Centers

There is decreasing participation in senior centers, and the trend is to discontinue building stand-alone centers and to design community recreation centers that offer a wide range of recreation opportunities for all age groups.

Standards

There is much debate among park and recreation professionals concerning the use of standards, statistics, and formulas to guide decisions on the preferred size and number of parks, open space, and recreation facilities that should be provided to meet local parks and recreation needs.

For smaller communities, the issue is likely more crucial because of the compelling need to be fiscally responsible in terms of how much land can not only be acquired, but how to efficiently and responsibly maintain parklands and open space, as well as fund, construct and maintain community recreation and sports facilities.

One conclusion can be reached – use of national standards of acres per thousand and formulas commonly used for establishing levels of service are becoming obsolete. To illustrate the point, a common standard used for many years is 10 acres of parkland per thousand persons. Applying this standard to Silverton’s 304 acres of parks and open space, the community will exceed the standard until well after it reaches its projected population of 13,759. Yet, the master plan concluded that Silverton is especially deficient and falling behind in equitable distribution of parks – especially neighborhood and community parks – and essentially there is no organized and connected park and open space system.

Modern standards tend to follow a maximum distance a park should be located from every residence within a city. A national standard hasn’t been set so local governments determine what the optimal maximum distance should be for their community. For example, Portland, Phoenix, and Nashville have a goal of ½ mile. The decision is usually based on the idea of every household being within walkable distance of a park. This method also helps to support equity regarding making sure everyone within the city has equal and fair access to the park system by dispersing the park locations uniformly. But many factors need to be considered including land availability, topography, and other physical barriers.

For these reasons and for purposes of this master plan, standards are community-driven – that is, based on community goals and special characteristics of Silverton, and intuitive decisions that consider variables such as physical barriers, availability of school sites and sports fields for community use, existing parklands and open space, and natural and topographic features of the urban landscape.

Nevertheless, it is useful to apply national standards to the City of Silverton to provide another gauge of how well park and recreation needs are being met, if only for comparison purposes.

Neighborhood Park, Urban Plaza Park, and Pathway Needs

According to Oregon Parks & Recreation 2019 A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning of 1 to 2 acres/1000 population for neighborhood parks, and .1 to .2 acres/1000 for Urban Plaza Parks, Silverton has a deficiency in these two basic park types. At least 10.56 acres of public neighborhood parkland should be provided, while only 2.3 acres of neighborhood and pocket parks are currently available. A 3.86 acre-built neighborhood park will be donated to the city bringing the total to 6.16 acres (see Table 1). A minimum of 1.06 acres of Urban Plaza Parks should be available and none currently exist, and a .5 to 1.5 miles/1000 population of trails, pathways and bikeways should be provided equaling a minimum of 5.29 miles. Silverton currently has approximately 1/6 mile of pathway.

According to these standards, Silverton needs at least one additional neighborhood park and one urban plaza park, which combined with 28 acres of privately owned common open space should meet future

needs for these types of parks. In addition, Silverton needs a minimum of 5.13 miles of trails, pathways, and bikeways.

Sports Facility Needs

According to national standards, Silverton has a shortage of existing sports facilities including soccer, football, baseball, and softball fields. With overlapping seasons for baseball and soccer, the deficiency of fields has been described by one sports official as “on a collision course.” Adding to the shortfall is the poor condition of fields at the school sites including lack of irrigation, drainage, and turf that is marginally playable.

Chapter Four

Strategic Issues and Findings

Results of the community needs assessment were synthesized and distilled into a set of strategic issues, which are supported by findings of fact. The issues and findings are the framework for the vision, goals and policies, and recommendations of the master plan.

OVERARCHING ISSUE: Silverton is a special community and residents want to maintain its charm, human scale, natural beauty, and livability.

Highly valued are Silver Creek, historic Coolidge McClaine Park, ridgeline greenspace, historic downtown, schools, and sports facilities. Art murals and galleries, celebrations and festivals, and community health and well-being rank high in importance. The Oregon Garden is a major asset and tourist attraction.

Issue 1. Growth is beginning to shape the character of Silverton and threaten its special qualities.

Residents want public greenspace effectively incorporated into new developments, but current trends are toward either private common areas that are not accessible to the public, or very small public park sites that do not fulfill neighborhood park needs. As a result, there is a major deficiency of neighborhood and community parkland. Little guidance exists for integrating land development and conservation goals into community policy and decision-making.

Issue 2. Silverton lacks a system of parks and greenspaces, although major elements are in place.

The Silver Creek greenway near downtown lays the groundwork for a system concept – historic Coolidge McClaine Park, swimming pool, library, old City Hall, historic flourmill site, and Town Square Park – all connected with a multi-use, off-street trail. The Pettit property adjacent to The Oregon Garden has potential as a natural area; Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park could become a regional waterfront park. Large school sites are strategically located in areas unserved by neighborhood parks and have potential for joint school-park use.

Issue 3. Weakest element of Silverton’s greenspace system is the lack of connectivity.

Linkages between parks, schools, and open spaces are almost non-existent except for the Silver Creek greenway near downtown. As the Silverton Transportation Plan finds, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity are lacking with major barriers such as rail lines, Silver Creek, major thoroughfares, and ridgelines. A pedestrian and bicycle friendly, “walkable” community is a high priority of residents.

Issue 4. For its size, Silverton has extraordinary opportunities to meet recreational and greenspace needs.

Silverton’s natural landscape is rich and varied including the Silver Creek corridor extending

through the heart of the community, scenic hillsides, wetlands, and woodlands, providing opportunities for walking and fitness, nature enjoyment, river recreation, scenic enjoyment, and environmental education for youth – all considered to be high priorities in terms of recreation trends and needs. These are the ingredients for creating a “quality place” that can help the community achieve economic prosperity, sense of community, and well-being.

Issue 5. Overall, Silverton parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces are well maintained and in good condition.

Dedicated staff take pride in maintaining parks, facilities, and open spaces in good condition. Most shortcomings are due to shortage of staff, lack of professional design and planning, and absence of maintenance management plans and guidelines. Coolidge McClaine Park is used beyond its carrying capacity. At the swimming pool and Silverton Reservoir, runoff from parking lots is not filtered, and there are major infestations of noxious vegetation in some areas of parks and open spaces.

Issue 6. Silverton’s recreation facilities are costly to maintain and are not designed to meet today’s recreational needs.

The Community Swimming Pool is 86 years old and does not reflect the trend toward leisure pools that are designed for family water play. The facility is maintained at a high cost per participant.

Issue 7. Silverton’s dedicated City staff, volunteers, non-profit groups, and businesses reflect a remarkable “can-do” spirit.

The School District, Silver Falls YMCA, and large number of volunteers, vendors, and businesses provide a variety of community recreation programs and services including recreational sports activities, art classes, and aquatics programs. Community celebrations, events, and festivals bring families and the community together and draw large numbers of visitors from the region. Volunteers have been involved in major efforts to remove non-native vegetation from trees in Coolidge McClaine Park and restore riparian habitat along Silver Creek.

Issue 8. Indicators of programmatic and organizational stress are surfacing in the community.

Silverton is reaching a tipping point in terms of matching the community’s expectations for quality parks and recreation services with the capacity and capability of providers. Unrealistic demands are placed on City staff, and there is a general lack of oversight and leadership to coordinate, direct, and effectively administer the large number of recreation and sports programs that are offered in the community. Indicators of programmatic stress include tension among partners over mission and goals, perceptions of disproportionate commitment of resources, gaps in services (e.g. for youth recreation), crisis management, volunteer burnout, and lack of integrated decision-making and coordination.

Chapter Five

Vision, Goals and Policies

The community open house, other public outreach efforts, and findings and strategic issues from the planning analysis provided the basis for creating a vision statement, goals, and policies for the master plan. In this way, a framework emerged to provide direction for preparing master plan recommendations and an action plan including implementation strategies.

A. Core Values

These core values are important to Silverton residents:

Silverton's Core Values

Rich history and tradition, historic charm

Celebrating history and the arts, historic buildings

Sense of community, friendliness, and safety Strong town character; surrounding rural landscape Walkability, human scale, connectivity

Protecting natural beauty

Silver Creek, ridgelines, forested hills,
Scenic views, trees, and tree canopy

Large greenspace areas

Coolidge McClaine Park, Pettit property, Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park, Ike Mooney property
The Oregon Garden

Downtown greenspace along Silver Creek Compact community and downtown

Raising children in a safe, livable community

Community health and well-being

Land use integrated with parks and open space Volunteers are a community resource

B. Vision Statement

The *Silverton Vision Statement* reflects shared core values and aspirations of the community. Describing a preferred future excites the imagination and provides direction not only for parks and recreation planning, but also can help guide other community planning policies and decisions.

Silverton Vision Statement

Silverton is Oregon's Garden City and one of the gateways to Silver Falls State Park. A vibrant and compact community surrounded by pastoral landscape, Silverton is a special town that has maintained its charm, friendliness, and natural beauty.

Hillsides, wetlands, and natural habitats are protected by a system of connected greenspaces that guide urban growth and foster livability. Silverton's tree canopy reinforces the community's values and character while purifying the air and providing wildlife habitat. The heart of Silverton is its vibrant and inviting downtown. With Silver Creek as its centerpiece, the rich history, superior design, and traditional architecture create a downtown where people live, work, shop, and play.

Silverton is a walkable and bicycle-friendly place that enhances a sense of neighborliness and community, reduces reliance on the automobile, and eases traffic congestion and air pollution. Parks, scenic vistas, natural habitats, farms, and forestlands define the City's boundaries.

Silverton places a high priority on community health and well-being by ensuring access to nature and recreation for all ages and celebrating the arts and its artists. As a livable and welcoming community, Silverton is a major destination area and vital part of a thriving tourism region.

C. Goals and Policies

Goal Statements describe preferred outcomes that would be achieved by implementing the Vision Statement. *Policy statements* are guiding principles that respond to the goals, and once adopted by elected officials provide policy direction for implementing the vision and goals.

Green Infrastructure

Goal 1:

To develop a Green Infrastructure Network that protects and preserves Silverton’s character and natural assets, and meets community and neighborhood needs for parks, open space, and recreation opportunities.

Policies:

- 1.1 Incorporate a Green Infrastructure concept into the Silverton Comprehensive Plan and other planning efforts, including elements of greenspace such as public parks, natural areas, private and public open space, greenways, wetlands, upland, and other habitats.
- 1.2 Assure neighborhood parks serve all major neighborhoods, and larger community parks are strategically located to provide a balance of parks, open space, and recreation facilities including sports fields.
- 1.3 Private parks and common open space shall not be considered as substitutes for neighborhood park and open space requirements.
- 1.4 In areas underserved by parkland, work with the Silver Falls School District so that school sites have dual functions for open space and recreation.
- 1.5 Silver Creek corridor will be managed as a greenway link and for wildlife habitat.
- 1.6 Protect and restore riparian habitats of Silver Creek and its tributaries and other drainages.
- 1.7 Explore creative ways to protect significant landscapes and valuable ecosystems without changing property ownership structure.
- 1.8 Foster community identity and pride by promoting the Greenspace Vision Diagram.

Land Use and Growth Management

Goal 2:

To shape and guide future land use patterns and new development to maintain a sustainable community.

Policies:

- 2.1 Silverton’s heritage and character will shape the course of change and development rather than new development shaping the character of the community.
- 2.2 New subdivisions will be required to meet neighborhood park and open space needs through the development review process and Parks System Development Charges, and other development code requirements as defined in the master plan.
- 2.3 Assure subdivision policies protect and connect resource areas such as steep slopes and natural drainages, provide adequate and suitable parks and open space, and require sound stormwater management practices that make use of natural processes and systems.
- 2.4 Assure Park SDCs and other exactions are sufficient to meet park and greenspace needs created by new development.

Connectivity

Goal 3.

To create a linked network of parks, natural areas, open space, commercial and employment areas,

downtown, and other special areas, incorporating sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and public multi-use pathways to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, natural landscapes, and the downtown core.

Policies:

- 3.1 Provide connectivity for each area of Silverton to ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle access to schools, parks, employment, and recreational areas (Policy #2a Silverton Transportation Plan).
- 3.2 Emphasize incentives and develop positive relationships with property owners in all efforts to develop greenspace connectivity; work to attain mutual goals and objectives.
- 3.3 When barriers to connectivity exist, use creative solutions that maintain linkages and values while respecting private property.
- 3.4 Silver Creek corridor will serve as a multi-use trail, as identified in the Downtown Master Plan and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans (Silverton Transportation Plan).
- 3.5 Where feasible, utilize the rail line right-of-way for a multi-use trail system, as identified in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans (Silverton Transportation Plan).
- 3.6 Develop a pedestrian system of sidewalks and pathways to provide safe, attractive, efficient, and accessible routes that allow pedestrians to travel from residential areas to schools, parks, commercial areas, and major employment centers (Policy #2d Silverton Transportation Plan).
- 3.7 Develop a bikeway system of bike lanes, shared roadways, and multi-use paths that allows bicyclists to travel from residential areas to schools, parks, commercial areas, and major employment centers (Policy #2e Silverton Transportation Plan).
- 3.8 Support efforts to implement regional off-street regional trail connections between Silverton and surrounding communities (Policy #2f Silverton Transportation Plan).

Recreation and Education

Goal 4.

To assure recreation and education opportunities are available to promote community well-being, health, and wellness.

Policies:

- 4.1 Continue to work with community partners to maintain community health and well-being.
- 4.2 Continue to provide leadership and direction with community opinion surveys and conduct periodic community recreation needs assessments.
- 4.3 Provide enriching family experiences and support youth development, adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities through parks and recreation opportunities.
- 4.4 Provide adequate recreation facilities to support and accommodate recreation needs; work with schools to provide joint use of sports facilities.
- 4.5 Support community events, festivals, and celebrations.
- 4.6 Support the arts and preserve Silverton’s cultural heritage; incorporate art in the design and development of parks and public greenspaces.
- 4.7 Foster education and enjoyment of “nature’s classroom” by creating information and interpretive opportunities throughout parks and public places.
- 4.8 Increase awareness of the need for resource stewardship.
- 4.9 Encourage exercise and healthy lifestyles, provide space for outdoor activities, create places of solitude and respite, and connect people with nature.

Tourism and Economic Development

Goal 5.

To sustain a healthy, prosperous, and diversified economy by maintaining a Green Infrastructure ethic.

Policies:

- 5.1 Attract and support businesses, vendors, and visitors.
- 5.2 Work with local businesses to invest in Silverton’s parks, recreation, and greenspace program to help the community’s economy thrive and prosper.
- 5.3 Support and complement The Oregon Garden through adjacent trails and trailheads with educational and interpretive information, and nature enjoyment opportunities such as birding.
- 5.4 Promote Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park as a regional water-based recreation attraction.
- 5.5 Assure downtown greenspace, Coolidge McClaine Park, Silverton Community Swimming Pool, and civic functions such as the library and city hall are included in implementing the Silverton Downtown Plan, including creek revitalization and protection.
- 5.6 Promote downtown as a place for community celebrations, including development of adequate and viable space for community gatherings.
- 5.7 Protect scenic views and vistas and provide infrastructure to access and enjoy them.

Sustainability

Goal 6:

To incorporate sustainability concepts when making decisions about park and open space land acquisition, park development, park usage, recreation programs, maintenance programs and practices, and other activities related to the provision of park facilities and delivery of recreation services.

Policies:

- 6.1 Provide leadership for the City of Silverton’s employees and citizens to understand the importance of sustainable concepts and practices in the workplace, in public spaces, and in the home.
- 6.2 Maintain and strive to improve habitat conditions and ecosystem functions within city parklands and other city-owned open space and resource lands.
- 6.3 Encourage the community to integrate sustainable practices when using parks and other open space and resource lands.
- 6.4 Integrate environmental, economic, cultural, financial, historic preservation, and social equity considerations as components of parks and recreation planning, development, provision, and maintenance of facilities and services.
- 6.5 Educate and promote removal of invasive, non-native vegetation and habitat restoration on public and private lands.
- 6.6 Promote use of natural systems and practices for stormwater management, with emphasis on cleansing and filtering urban runoff.
- 6.7 Promote recycling in all parks and public spaces, especially during festivals and special events.

Community Partnerships, Volunteers, and Public Engagement

Goal 7:

To strengthen and maintain community partnerships and volunteerism, and actively involve the community in implementing the master plan.

Policies:

- 7.1 Maintain a strong and active volunteer program with opportunities for citizens to become actively involved in programs such as habitat restoration and other projects, and to develop a sense of community pride.
- 7.2 Bring together people with different perspectives to promote local commitment to the Green

Infrastructure Initiative.

- 7.3 Provide leadership and active involvement of the community in implementing and continual refinement of the green network design, strategies, code provisions, and practices.
- 7.4 Promote and facilitate outdoor classrooms, work closely with schools.
- 7.5 Foster sustainable community partnerships and an active core of volunteers by making citizen engagement a major priority in terms of public policy.
- 7.6 Formalize partnerships through agreements to meet mutual goals and objectives of all parties.
- 7.7 Explore self-policing options when addressing behavioral issues, for example hiring skaters to help enforce safety and park rules at a skatepark.

Quality Services

Goal 8:

To achieve the highest possible level of excellence in the planning, design, and management of parks, natural areas, and open spaces, and to facilitate recreation programs and services that enrich the community.

Policies:

- 8.1 The City should take a leadership role in the provision of recreational activities and programs, working cooperatively with others to ensure the needs of all sectors of the community are met and gaps in services are minimized.
- 8.2 Direct resources toward unmet recreation needs of particular age groups and target populations.
- 8.3 Maintain a viable park, recreation, and greenspace system through a business approach including creative and alternative financing, resourcing, and partnering.
- 8.4 In managing public natural areas and open spaces, target resources on degraded habitats and natural ecosystems with proactive adaptive management.
- 8.5 Make maintenance management a high priority to assure parks, open space, and recreation facilities are clean, safe, functional, and have ecological integrity.
- 8.6 Maintain superior and creative design in all parks, open space, and natural areas with emphasis on use of natural materials and sustainable, “green maintenance” practices.
- 8.7 Support and work collaboratively with other providers to facilitate high quality community recreation programs and provide sufficient public information on programs and services.
- 8.8 Assure adequate staffing and organizational structure to provide professional direction for the park and recreation program, and to effectively implement the master plan.

Chapter Six

Plan Recommendations

The master plan recommendations provide direction for implementing the vision statement, goals, and policies that emerged from the planning process. Recommendations respond to community park and recreation needs as identified through extensive public involvement, and an assessment of existing and future opportunities as well as physical conditions of sites and facilities.

To frame and guide the recommendations, findings from the planning process were distilled into several strategic issues or themes:

- Silverton wants to retain its special character.
- Growth threatens Silverton’s special qualities.
- Silverton lacks a system of parks and greenspaces.
- Lack of connectivity is Silverton’s weakest greenspace element.
- Silverton has extraordinary opportunities to meet community needs.
- Overall, Silverton’s parks, recreational facilities, and open space are well maintained.
- Silverton’s recreation facilities are not designed to meet community needs.
- Silverton’s dedicated City staff, volunteers, NGOs reflect a “can-do” spirit.
- Indicators of programmatic and organizational stress are surfacing.

Recommended Classification System

The classification system in Appendix A provides a comprehensive framework for planning, development, and management of a Green Infrastructure system. If the system is organized in this manner, Silverton’s park and recreation needs will be met in an efficient and effective manner, and incremental improvements and additions can be made systematically and in a feasible progression.

The most important aspect of the classification system is its structure comprising a hierarchy of parks, greenspaces, and recreation facilities, each with a discrete role and purpose. It is essential that preferred recreational uses for each system component are established by plan and policy, assuring not only equilibrium in the system but meeting sustainability goals of resource protection, public benefits, and efficient management.

Project List

A detailed project list for the master plan recommendations is provided in Appendix B. These recommendations respond to the conclusions in Chapter 3 and the issues and findings in Chapter 4.

Implementation

To implement the strategies and actions outlined in the plan, a critical set of special recommendations has been developed to address management and operations. As concluded in the plan, community expectations and needs do not match up with staffing and resources currently allocated to provide quality services.

A. Vision Diagram – Parks, Greenspaces, Facilities

The Vision Diagram is a graphic image of the existing and recommended parks and open space system. The “Green Infrastructure” planning concept was the overarching framework for organizing the preferred system. This concept views parks, open spaces, natural areas, and linkages as key components of a “greenspace” system – with essential functions considered to be as important as public streets and utilities.

The Vision Diagram responds to core beliefs and aspirations of Silverton residents and creates a mental map and vision of a preferred future. The diagram begins with existing “building blocks” of the system.

Existing Parks and Greenspaces

Silverton’s park and recreation opportunities can be substantially increased through the following enhancements and improvements to existing parks and greenspaces.

Coolidge McClaine Park Renovation, and Silver Cr. Greenway

Renovation and rehabilitation of the historic 13.55-acre Coolidge McClaine Park should continue. Improvements should include the following:

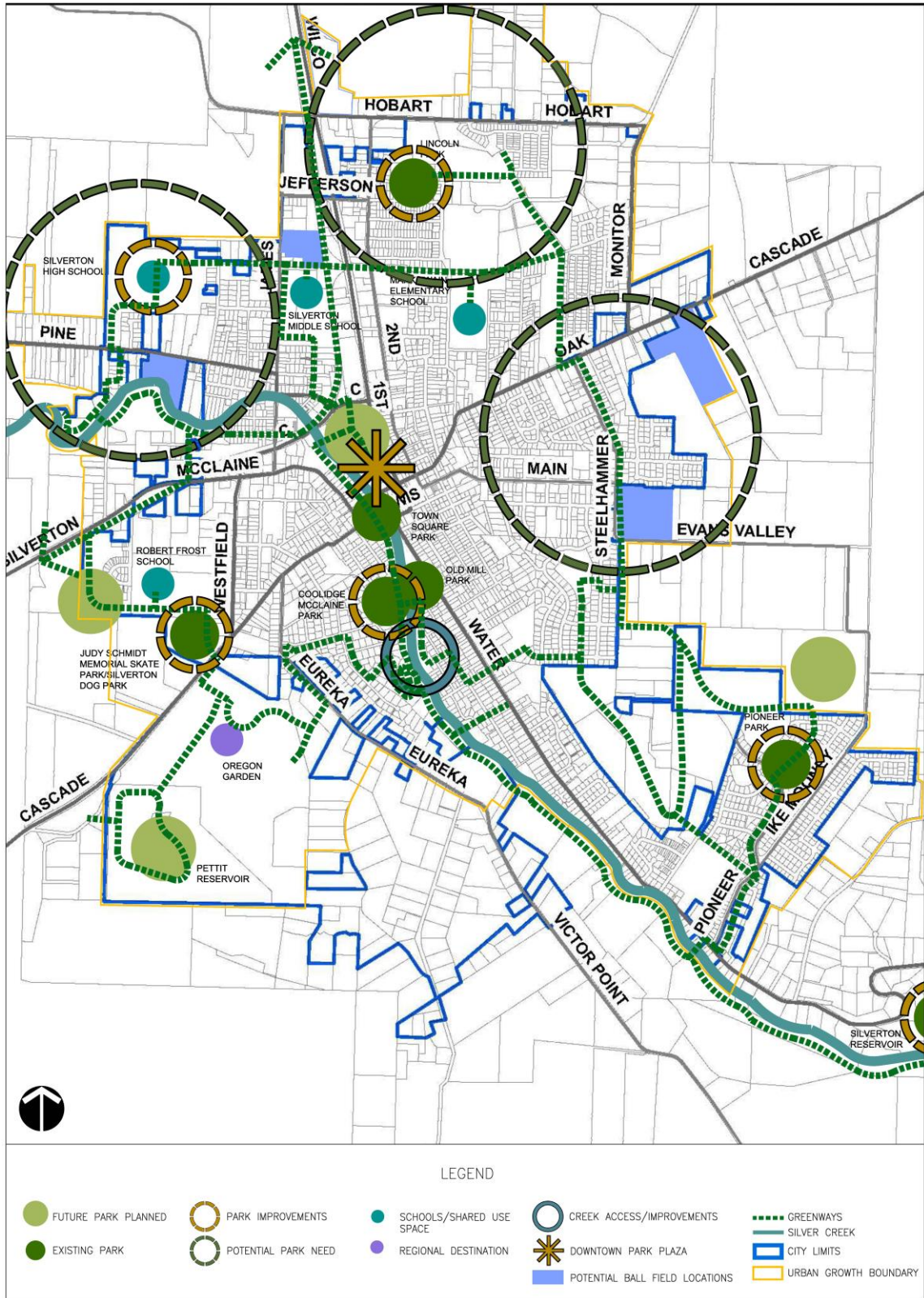
- Improvement of existing informal trail south of the park along Silver Creek, providing ADA-accessibility and removal of noxious vegetation and replacement with natives
- Continued restoration of Silver Creek riparian area, including removal of invasive plant species and restore with native plants, as well as correcting bank erosion.
- New park benches and litter receptacles
- Outdoor amphitheater (will require additional site planning and design)
- Put-in / Take-out site to provide creek access for kayaks, canoes, and tubes.

With assistance of community volunteers, continued habitat restoration work along the Silver Creek Greenway and hillside should also receive a high priority, removing invasive vegetation and replanting with native plant material.

The 7.7-acre linear open space along Silver Creek should become a demonstration greenway project, continuing to provide interpretive displays and information on the history of the corridor including the park, historic flourmill site, covered footbridge, and Town Square site. Areas such as the chain link fencing on the east bank entry to the park (near the pool parking lot) should be enhanced with landscaping and screening, and intrusive signs should be removed or replaced.

“Green” improvements should be made in areas such as the swimming pool parking lot, and information signs and/or interpretive displays installed that describe importance of items such as biofiltration and protecting water quality of Silver Creek.

Recommended Vision Diagram



Improvements should be made to improve the legibility of the creekside trail, such as the gap that now occurs at the old City Hall parking lot and lack of a visible connection with the downtown sidewalk. Special pavers or painted footprints would enhance connectivity. The trail south of the park along the west bank should be improved, and trail connections made to the adjacent neighborhood.

Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park Development



Also located on Silver Creek just outside the city, 60-acre Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park (80-acres) functions as a large, regional waterfront park for non-motorized boating and fishing. A loop trail system including interpretive displays is recommended, which would require a footbridge across the creek below the dam. Also recommended is a designated swimming area, enhancements to the entryway and parking lot including a biofiltration system and landscaping, replacing the conventional restroom with a “Green” composting facility, and expanding picnic facilities for families and large groups. Creek

access below the dam is also proposed to provide non-motorized boat access including kayaks and canoes.

Pettit Park

The City owns an undeveloped 80-acre natural area and small lake known as the Pettit property, adjacent to The Oregon Garden. Phase one design services have begun for a walking path around the reservoir and a connector trail to the existing parking lot at the Oregon Gardens. The mountain bike club will design and construct mountain biking/hiking trails. Phase two will determine additional amenities added such as water access and a picnic shelter. Trail connections are needed to Coolidge McClaine Park, as well as downtown.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Greenway Opportunity Area

A sizable, intact riparian forest of approximately 1500 linear feet is located on the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant site, with an opportunity to provide creek access for kayaks and canoes, a small parking lot, an information kiosk, and interpretive displays with public open space as a major node and demonstration greenway area on Silver Creek.

Pioneer Park Improvements

Pioneer Park is a small 2-acre neighborhood park in the growing southeast part of Silverton. Facilities at the park include a picnic shelter, playground with swings, basketball court, and pedestrian paths. The addition of a restroom is recommended.

Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is a very small site in the north central part of Silverton. Due to its small size, an Adopt-a-Park program is recommended with involvement of the adjacent neighborhood or a community sponsor to help maintain the site and offset high maintenance costs. In addition, it is recommended the park is

upgraded and made ADA accessible.

Ike Mooney Park

A community park is recommended for development on the 40-acre parcel located on Ike Mooney to meet not only future needs, but also fulfill a shortfall of parkland for community-wide and neighborhood use and reduce current impacts to Coolidge McClaine Park. Recommended improvements include hiking/biking trails, group and family picnic facilities, disk golf, infrastructure including parking and restrooms. Trail connections should be provided to adjacent neighborhoods.

Senior Center, Dog Park, Skatepark Property

The city has started the process of adding pickleball courts to the Senior Center site plus additional parking.

Civic Center Park

One acre of land at the new city hall site is dedicated to an urban park. Feedback from the community and the Parks Advisory Committee overwhelmingly wanted a plaza/multiuse space for functions such as the farmer's market. Both a stage/picnic shelter and interactive water feature were high up on the preferred amenities.

Westside Gateway Park

The Westside Gateway development off Railway Avenue will be dedicating approximately 5 acres of land to the city for a public neighborhood park. A trail that connects to the neighborhood, surrounding streets and properties is recommended.

Private Common Open Space Areas

Several common open space areas are privately owned by homeowners, and with some exceptions are small and have limited recreation functions. It is recommended that the City avoid taking responsibility for future maintenance or ownership of these sites, because of the high cost to maintain and limited recreation and open space value to the community. An alternative would be to establish an Adopt-a-Park program with a local sponsor and for volunteers to maintain the sites.

The Oregon Garden

The Oregon Garden is a major component of the existing greenspace system, functioning as a large non-profit public demonstration garden, educational facility, and meeting place managed and operated by others. The Garden should be connected to downtown with a multi-use trail.

Existing Recreation Facilities, Sports Facilities

As documented in the master plan assessment, Silverton's recreation is largely deficient due to their design and age, and therefore substantial investment in these facilities is not recommended, at least in the short term. Partnering with the School District to upgrade existing sports facilities is a more immediate need.

Community Outdoor Sports Facility Renovations

The existing sports fields at Robert Frost and Mark Twain schools need renovation, and it is recommended that the City partner with the School District in upgrading and restoring these facilities to meet needs for outdoor sports activities. Renovation should include improving drainage, installing an automatic irrigation system, and re-establishing turf.

Silverton Community Swimming Pool

The Silverton Community Swimming Pool, built in 1939, is part of the central core of the greenspace system, located on the east bank of Silver Creek near Coolidge McClaine Park. The pool has a cover for

year-around use, and functions largely as a traditional pool. A feasibility study was done in 2012 to determine whether to purchase a new cover for the pool or to move the future of the pool in other directions. The plan looked at different development scenarios including maintaining the current facility, adding a permanent replacement cover, or replacing the entire facility at the current or new site.

In 2016 the city did an Existing Conditions Analysis and Recommendations study to determine the condition of the pool and mechanical system. It was determined that the pool is well maintained but past the typical pools service life cycle expectation. Any renovations must keep this in mind so as not to make a large investment that might be compromised by some other limiting factor. The study came up with two realistic long-term solutions: replace the existing pool, mechanical systems in the same location and reuse the existing building or relocate the pool complex.

There is a need for more community water play opportunities, but the pool age must be considered before any significant improvements are added to the existing pool facility. The feasibility study should be updated to consider these factors. In 2019 the city did add a new fabric cover.

New Parks and Greenspace

As concluded in the system analysis, Silverton has excellent opportunities for improving the public greenspace system, and correcting deficiencies in neighborhood and community parkland.

Silver Creek Greenway Feasibility Study



Flowing through the heart of Silverton, Silver Creek is recommended as a future greenway to support habitat protection and restoration, connect parks and greenspace, and where feasible provide opportunities for pedestrians and bicycles. Proposed facilities include interpretive displays, information signs, viewing platforms, and sitting areas. A feasibility study is recommended to evaluate viable options and directly involve landowners in any proposed recommendations.

Viewshed Protection Opportunity Area

On the southern edge of the undeveloped ridgeline east of S. Water Street, a Viewshed Protection Area is

identified as a potential area to create conservation easements, viewpoints, and forest protection by working with property owners and others. A community Land Trust is recommended to facilitate negotiations and create opportunities for gifts, donations, and living trusts.

Proposed Neighborhood Park

A new neighborhood park is recommended in the Steelhammer Road area, a large area unserved by existing parks. Facilities to be considered in master planning for site include a playground for children and youth with play equipment and hard surface court facility, picnic facilities including a small gazebo, pathways, and signage.

Proposed Joint School-Park

Through a cooperative agreement with the School District, a 4-acre joint school-park is recommended at

Mark Twain Elementary School where a large oak grove exists, and picnic facilities and a new playground are recommended.

New Recreation Facilities, Sports Facilities

Future Recreation Center

The city should work with community partners to develop A new community recreation center. The center would include a multi-purpose gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, a fitness-wellness center, concessions, and amenities.

Future Sports Fields Complex

Acquisition of approximately 20 acres around Oak Street near Monitor Road is recommended for the design and development of a sports fields complex.

Trail System Recommendations

Multi-use Trail Corridors



The basic structure of a trail system incorporates recommendations in the Silverton Transportation Plan, including a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trail along Silver Creek and connecting with a multi-use trail along the existing rail line and an abandoned rail line west of Mark Twain School. Connections between Mark Twain School and the high school are also recommended, as proposed in the Transportation Plan. Footbridges across Silver Creek are also part of the Transportation Plan recommendations.

This master plan also recommends connections between Coolidge

McClaine Park, The Oregon Garden, and the Pettit Property, and extending a multi-use trail from “C” Street to the Wastewater Treatment Plant along Silver Creek. Regional connections along major highways as recommended by the Transportation Plan are also included - including a connection to Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park. Other connections include a greenway between Pioneer to Abiqua Heights then connecting to Coolidge McClain Park and connecting Abiqua Heights to Webb Lake. A regional greenway is recommended between Mount Angel and Silverton.

The greenway feasibility recommended in the section above should include a trails feasibility study to evaluate viable options and directly involve landowners in any proposed recommendations.

B. Recreation Programs and Services

Findings from the master plan process indicate a major strength of Silverton is the variety of recreation programs, services and community events that are offered through many non-profit agencies, schools, community groups and clubs, businesses, volunteers, and vendors. The City of Silverton provides

support to these groups in varying ways including office facilities, financial assistance, and use of parks and facilities.

Findings also suggest one of Silverton’s critical issues is the fact that it is reaching a tipping point in the size and scope of service delivery, with multiple indicators of programmatic stress placed on providers including the City of Silverton.

From the master plan outreach process, this theme surfaced in many ways including gaps in recreation services for some segments of community. Coordination, scheduling, and publicizing programs and activities are becoming more difficult, and missions are sometimes in conflict.

As outlined in the next section, it is recommended that the City explore options for improving recreation programs and services, including more leadership responsibility assumed by the City of Silverton itself. In addition to possible organizational and administrative adjustments, there are several other recommendations.

Respond to Community Recreation Needs and Trends

Recent research from the 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates trends in recreation needs for Oregonians include providing programs for an aging and more diverse population, connecting youth with nature, focusing on underserved low-income population, and addressing a crisis in Oregonians’ physical activity that is leading to health problems.

Similar trends were underscored for Silverton residents through the master plan process, identifying gaps in community recreation programs and services for youth, seniors and adults, and Hispanic families. Teenagers consistently expressed concerns that not enough recreation opportunities were available for their age group, and frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the community placing a high priority on sports programs while ignoring other interests such as a skatepark and a safe, supervised public place to “hang out.”

Affordability was also identified as a community issue, with many families unable to absorb fees for programs and services and are either reluctant to accept scholarships or do not know about their availability. Research also indicates that Hispanic families have specific cultural interests and needs including facilities for large groups and family gatherings, musical events and dancing, and cultural celebrations.

Given these concerns and recreation trends, these are examples of programmatic areas where community partners should consider working together to place more community emphasis and priorities.

Increase Health and Fitness Opportunities, Community Walkability

Opportunities for walking for both exercise and recreation should be substantially increased, since this is the most popular recreation activity for Oregon residents and addresses the crisis in lack of physical activity that is leading to health problems.

It is recommended that the YMCA explore ways to increase opportunities for family fitness programs at the Community Swimming Pool, perhaps working more directly with the Silverton Hospital as a partner.



Connect Youth, Families, Seniors, and Nature



Given the concerns for youth development and lack of connection with nature and the outdoors, more organized and unorganized programs and activities should be offered to children and youth in the community. With minimal improvements such as trails and interpretive information, outdoor opportunities could be made available at sites such as the Pettit property and Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park. Silver Creek could support more recreational use by improving public access opportunities and promoting seasonal and safe river activities such as kayaking, canoeing,

tubing, and swimming.

Involvement of volunteers in habitat restoration projects provides excellent avenues for children and families to learn more about invasive vegetation, the important role of native plants and trees, and the benefits of maintaining healthy urban ecosystems. The School District could play a major role in these efforts, as well as the local Izaak Walton League and the Pudding River Watershed Council.

Given high participation rates and growing trends, this recommendation also would meet an increasing need to provide opportunities for birdwatching, nature enjoyment, and wildlife observation. As the community population ages, these recreation interests will continue to increase at a large rate.

Recognize and Support Diversity

It is recommended that community recreation providers work more with local groups such as Somos Hispanas Unidas to explore ways for local parks, facilities, and programs to accommodate and support diversity.

Improve and Expand Community Recreation Facilities and Sports Fields

The previous section includes recommendations for addressing a deficiency in Silverton's recreation and sports facilities, and specific ways to expand recreation opportunities in the community. Notably this includes renovation of existing sports fields at local schools. Other facility improvements can also close gaps in recreation services such as providing a designated swimming area at Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park.

Conduct Systematic Recreation Needs Assessments

With the City's leadership, it is timely for recreation providers to evaluate existing programs and determine in what strategic ways community recreation programs can be adjusted to address recreation trends and needs. It is recommended that the City take the initiative to work with service providers and conduct periodic recreation needs assessments to continue to identify gaps in services, identify satisfaction levels, and determine community priorities. These efforts can then be coordinated with the Community Opinion Survey administered periodically by the City. (A process for conducting routine needs assessments is included at the end of the master plan).

Formalize Community Partnerships

In large part, collaboration among providers has been done on an informal and as-needed basis. Given increasing recreation demands and needs of the community, it will become increasingly important to develop formal agreements that provide improved coordination, planning, and management, fulfill organizational missions and goals, and offer more effective recreation services to the community. The City should assume leadership in implementing this recommendation.

Improve Information Distribution

Due to the number of recreation providers and wide variety of programs, many residents either have limited information or are confused with recreation programs and services that are offered. By preparing and distributing a recreation program guide, residents could find in one information piece all the activities and services.

The previous section outlined recommendations to enhance community recreation programs through improved existing recreation facilities and several proposed new facilities.

C. Management and Operations

The master plan assessment highlighted the outstanding leadership role, dedication, and accomplishments of City staff in shaping the current structure and framework for meeting Silverton's park and recreation needs. Indeed, given its size, it is remarkable that Silverton has such an excellent foundation for creating a first-class park and recreation system. At the same time, increasing community demands exceed the current level of staff support, existing organizational structure, and available resources.

The following recommendations are highlighted as essential for Silverton to transition from its current management and leadership approach to one that can begin to implement the master plan. The full set of recommendations is outlined in the Strategies and Actions section of the master plan, and additional recommendations are included at the end of the master plan document.

Create a New Organization Structure

It is recommended that the City create a new organizational structure to begin immediately implementing the master plan. Initially, this could take the form of a new coordinator within the Public Works Department to oversee maintenance and operations and provide direction to the program.

However, this does not resolve the dilemma of a fragmented community recreation program, and the organizational capability and capacity to implement the numerous strategies and actions recommended in this plan. For this reason, it is recommended that the City explore alternatives for preferred long-term administration of the program, including:

- New Division within the Public Works Department
- New City Parks and Recreation Department
- Parks and Recreation District (using boundaries of the library or school district)

Appoint a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Appointment of a formal parks and recreation committee is recommended to advise the City Council on matters of policy and to help guide and support the program. In preparing the master plan, it has become quite evident that there are key knowledgeable with remarkable skills and talents in the community, and these human resources should be harnessed on a formal basis.

Develop Maintenance Management Plans

Formal maintenance management plans provide a systematic course of action to avoid deferred maintenance and maintain facilities and parks in good condition. The National Recreation and Parks Association offers continuing education for preparing maintenance management plans. Best practices should be identified that meet sustainability goals.

Equally important, special management plans should be prepared for natural areas, since they have requirements that go well beyond grounds and facility maintenance. Often, local professionals and specialists will volunteer to draft these plans with an understanding of the science and management requirements that can “nudge” natural habitats with strategic restoration goals and strategies, as well as recommend public uses most suited to fragile landscapes.

Monitor Health of Tree Canopy in Coolidge McClaine Park

The master plan considers Coolidge McClaine Park as a historic and vibrant downtown park that should continue to accommodate community events and celebrations. In 2014 the city hired an arborist to complete a tree assessment to evaluate the health and conditions of the mature tree canopy. The city should continue to monitor the health of the canopy on a regular basis to protect the longevity of the trees and determine desired carrying capacity of the park.

Develop a Formal Volunteer Program

The current volunteer program does not reach its full potential because of staff shortfall to oversee and manage. It is recommended that a Green Volunteer Program be created, and a recognition component developed. A work plan should be prepared with a list of potential projects for local civic groups, clubs, and others. Trail construction and maintenance, and invasive vegetation removal are two of the most popular volunteer programs.

Prepare a Gift Catalogue

Gift catalogs have been most valuable for obtaining gifts and donations. The value of the catalog is to not only develop priorities that match departmental goals and strategies, but through pictures and text a potential donor can be inspired to make a commitment.

Help Facilitate Creation of a Local Land Trust

Non-governmental organizations such as a Community Land Trust have proven most effective in helping protect viewsheds with public access opportunities in undeveloped ridgeline and hilltop areas, and using methods such as conservation easements, fee simple acquisition, gifts, and donations, and living trusts.

Establish an Adopt-a-Park Program

An adopt-a-park program is recommended for Lincoln Park because of its size and high cost to maintain. This should also become the prototype should any of the several private common areas become abandoned and the City is requested to maintain them by default.



D. Strategies and Actions

To facilitate implementation of the master plan, strategies and actions are recommended for each of the eight goals outlined in Chapter Two. The list is not prescriptive but represents a conceptual framework for a work program that can be adjusted to availability of funds and opportunities, and annual City goals and priorities.

In this context, these strategies and actions should be viewed as an organized array of potential recommendations, continuously evaluated, and refined based on feasibility and resource capabilities. These recommendations are intended to provide an action plan to help keep pace with rapid growth and development.

GOAL 1: Develop a Green Infrastructure Network

- 1.1 Adopt the recommended Park and Greenspace System Classification and use it as guidelines for planning, managing, and maintaining parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.
- 1.2 Establish a community education program to help implement the Greenspace Vision Diagram including brochures, maps, posting on the City's web site, and celebrate milestones.
- 1.3 Create and work with a Community Land Trust to protect viewsheds with public access opportunities in undeveloped ridgeline and hilltop areas, exploring methods such as conservation easements, fee simple acquisition, gifts, and donations, and living trusts.
- 1.4 Conduct a feasibility study for implementing the Silver Creek Greenway and Multi-use Trail, including greenway management and habitat protection goals.
- 1.5 Manage existing City greenway properties as a demonstration area to help implement the Silver Creek Greenway concept.
- 1.6 Work with the Pudding River Watershed Council to help protect and restore riparian habitat along Silver Creek.
- 1.7 Work with landowners and provide information/education on habitat protection and restoration along the Silver Creek Greenway.
- 1.8 Develop Pettit property as a natural area and develop a trail system.
- 1.9 Work with local scientists and professionals to help refine and implement the Greenspace Vision Diagram, by continued assessment of the condition and health of Silverton's urban ecosystems, including vulnerability analysis.

GOAL 2: Guide Land Use and Manage Growth

- 2.1 Amend the Silverton Comprehensive Plan, incorporating the Green Infrastructure concept and policies into Chapter 4: Open Space, Natural and Cultural Resources.
- 2.2 Continue to implement riparian setback and steep slope requirements and evaluate their effectiveness.
- 2.3 Work with the development community to foster and promote green infrastructure design in new subdivisions; use an incentive-based approach to the greatest degree possible and avoid dedication of neighborhood parkland and open space that does not meet standards and guidelines of the master plan.
- 2.4 Establish a recognition and awards program to acknowledge local development projects that achieve design excellence and promote Green Infrastructure concepts.

GOAL 3: Create a Linked Greenspace Network

- 3.1 Conduct a feasibility study for implementing multi-use trails along rail lines and ridge lines, in addition to the Silver Creek feasibility study (Strategy #1.4).
- 3.2 Actively involve property owners in all feasibility studies for implementing Green Infrastructure concepts and multi-use trail plans.
- 3.3 Establish a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee representing key public and private sector representatives to coordinate and implement the proposed linked network of Green Infrastructure, commercial and employment areas, downtown and other special areas.
- 3.4 Connect The Oregon Garden, Pettit property, Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park, and other significant landscape features and recreation amenities in the Green Infrastructure Network.
- 3.5 Develop a Comprehensive Trails Plan including on-street and off-street trails and pathways, implementation strategies, and proposed funding options.

GOAL 4: Assure Recreation and Education Opportunities are Available

- 4.1 Develop agreements with the City and non-profit agencies, the business community, and other organizations to facilitate meeting recreational and outdoor sports needs of the community.
- 4.2 Evaluate the current organizational structure and explore options for improving the planning, administration, and management of community recreation programs, and include operations and management of the Community Swimming Pool.
- 4.3 Develop a periodic community recreation needs assessment to identify gaps in services, involve major partners, and coordinate with the Silverton Community Opinion Survey.
- 4.4 Review recreation research and trends (aging population, connecting youth with nature, focusing on underserved low-income population, increasing population diversity, Oregon's physical activity crisis) and work with providers to evaluate and improve existing recreation programs.
- 4.5 Prepare and distribute a recreation program guide that provides information on all community recreation activities and services, including programs offered at the swimming pool, and list schedules and locations.
- 4.6 Work with community partners to develop a recreation center.
- 4.7 Update the feasibility study to add family water play and amenities to the existing swimming pool and/or alternative locations and design a new leisure pool in partnership with others.
- 4.8 Develop a relationship and mechanism with the Art Association to incorporate art in the design of new parks and in renovations of existing parks.
- 4.9 Work with Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), schools and volunteers to expand and coordinate outdoor education programs for youth and adults.
- 4.10 Develop loop trails that are conducive for short hikes and have multiple outdoor education opportunities.
- 4.11 Develop educational interpretive displays in key locations within the parks system.

GOAL 5: Maintain a Green Infrastructure Ethic to Sustain a Healthy Economy and Tourism

- 5.1 Collect and share national studies that illustrate monetary, personal health, and social values that are attributed to a progressive parks, recreation, and healthy green infrastructure system.
- 5.2 Connect The Oregon Garden with the Silverton Trail System, and through proper signage and trailheads encourage and welcome visitors to the downtown core.
- 5.3 Develop a work plan and strategies to improve the walkability of Silverton, promote local businesses, and make it more visitor friendly.
- 5.4 Develop public information on benefits of Silverton's Green Infrastructure program to promote

the community as a sound place for businesses and families to locate.

- 5.5 Develop Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park as a regional waterfront park, and develop a loop trail system, improved parking, and interpretive program.

GOAL 6: Incorporate Sustainability Concepts in Decision-making

- 6.1 Create a Sustainability Advisory Committee to review the City of Silverton's services and how they can be improved to meet sustainability goals, e.g. to encourage an employee ethic that could be transferred to the community. Appoint a staff member as coordinator.
- 6.2 Develop a strategic plan to implement core sustainable actions for maintaining parks and public facilities, including a robust recycling program.
- 6.3 Create a staff training and education program for sustainable practices.
- 6.4 Develop alternative transportation initiatives for City staff.
- 6.5 Develop an organized volunteer program for invasive vegetation removal and appoint a City staff member as coordinator (Strategy 7.1).
- 6.6 Promote recycling in all parks and public spaces, especially during festivals and special events.

GOAL 7: Strengthen and Maintain Community Partnerships, Volunteers, and Public Engagement

- 7.1 Create a Green Infrastructure Volunteer program and include a recognition component.
- 7.2 Facilitate forming non-governmental organizations such as a Land Trust that will partner with the City to implement the Green Infrastructure program.
- 7.3 Develop a Volunteer Work Plan with a list of projects for local civic groups, clubs, and others to select projects.
- 7.4 Develop a gift catalog for the community to help fund specific needs.
- 7.5 Focus work parties on trail construction and maintenance as well as invasive vegetation removal – projects that have proven to have high community support.
- 7.6 Develop a cooperative program between the City and School District to engage students in outdoor classroom projects that help connect youth with nature.
- 7.7 Integrate community gardens into existing parks and open space sites.

GOAL 8: Provide High Quality Services and Fill Gaps

- 8.1 Create a new organizational structure and staff responsibilities to immediately begin implementing the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.
- 8.2 Explore alternatives for preferred park and recreation administration, including a City Parks and Recreation Department, a Park and Recreation District (with similar boundaries to the Library and/or School District), or expand responsibilities within the City's existing organizational structure.
- 8.3 Appoint a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizen Advisory Committee to help guide the program and advise the City Council.
- 8.4 Designate Mark Twain Elementary School as a Joint School-Park and acquire oak grove from the School District for neighborhood park use; also acquire adjacent private land (0.3 ac triangle).
- 8.5 Develop the 40-acre new community park on Ike Mooney.
- 8.6 Hire an arborist to conduct a study of the trees in Coolidge McClaine Park and recommend a management program that establishes limits of use for community events and celebrations.
- 8.7 Acquire acreage near Steelhammer Rd and develop it as a neighborhood park.
- 8.8 Develop an adopt-a-park agreement with the Lincoln Park neighborhood to serve as the pilot for

the City to disengage from primary responsibilities for small, inefficient parks. Should homeowners in other neighborhoods discontinue maintenance responsibility for private common open space and parks in the future, use the Lincoln Park model as the preferred alternative to the City accepting responsibility for these areas by default due to their high cost.

8.9 Develop maintenance management plans for all City parks and open spaces.

8.10 Develop management plans for natural areas with specific policies, goals, and management practices that give special attention to habitat protection and restoration, as well as recreation uses suitable to the site and its vulnerabilities.

E. Funding Sources

Financial Challenges and Recommendation

The City of Silverton will be challenged with critical decisions as it implements and responds to recommendations of the master plan. Due to Oregon's property tax laws, limiting growth in tax assessment to 3% per year has created compression for cities across the state, ultimately pitting police, fire, parks, libraries, and administrative services against each other.

At the same time, Silverton residents have placed a very high priority on parks, recreation services, and open space amenities. It is therefore incumbent on the City to be as creative as possible and explore all available strategies for providing these services. There is no formula for being creative; however, it becomes increasingly difficult to leverage small amounts of funds without professional staff having primary leadership responsibility for programs and services.

These are examples of management strategies that are essential to developing a quality parks and recreation program:

- Working with the Community and decision-makers to implement and periodically update the adopted Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.
- Providing leadership with community and decision-makers to increase awareness of the economic, health, and environmental importance of parks, recreation, and open spaces.
- Developing strong community partnerships with others including the Silver Falls School District, collaborating to meet community goals and priorities and coordinating recreation programs such as scheduling community use of sports fields.
- Building relationships with private landowners to help create land donations, conservation easements, and trail easements.
- Coordinating a successful volunteer program that can provide countless hours of critical services (i.e. trail development and maintenance, and invasive vegetation removal have been proven to be a very good focus for volunteers).
- Developing a strategic approach to preparing grant applications, pursuing alternative funding sources, and leveraging support to meet priorities and implement the master plan.
- Working with County Community Work Crews (individuals that have been assigned to work crews in lieu of incarceration) can help maintain parks.
- Building relationships to help form or work with an existing Land Trust to purchase open space or develop conservation easements for protection of important scenic corridors - a Land Trust also can become an important source of volunteers for trail development and maintenance.
- Working with the community to develop an equitable fee program for services that does not exclude citizens from access to parks and recreation services.
- Managing contract services where the City receives higher value than hiring internally.
- Performing periodic community needs assessments to assure the community is served holistically and there are no gaps in services.

- Developing a business plan with help from the community to create an ‘entrepreneurial’ approach for service delivery.
- Developing maintenance management plans that assist staff with proper and effective operations.

As outlined above, a Park Supervisor capacity is recommended to provide management and oversight for the operations and maintenance of new projects, and to give professional leadership to the expanded parks and recreation program.

Funding Park, Recreation, and Open Space Operations

It is important to maintain an annual funding baseline for parks, recreation, and open space services for the purposes of leveraging these funds to implement goals and strategies laid out in the Master Plan. It is recommended that a supplemental funding source be identified to help decision-makers budget annually for implementing the master plan recommendations, and to develop stable and sustainable funding. A potential source to consider is the Transient Tax (tax on Hotels, Motels, and Campgrounds). Park and recreation services play a major role in attracting visitors to Silverton and it is appropriate to offset O&M costs with a proportional share of these funds. As the master plan is implemented, more visitors will enjoy the enhancements and the fund will grow accordingly.

Funding Sources

The following are some potential sources to explore for additional funding for acquiring, developing, and maintaining the City’s parks and recreation system.

General Fund

General fund revenues consist chiefly of property taxes derived from the City’s permanent tax rate and are subject to the \$10 combined limit on local government taxing agencies imposed by Measure #5 (1990), and the 3% annual increase in property valuation imposed by Measure #50 (1997). General fund revenues are severely limited and are an inconsistent and unlikely source for funding parks and recreation improvements. General fund revenues should be considered as a possible funding source for some operations and maintenance activities.

System Development Charges (SDCs)

System Development Charges (SDCs) are fees paid by new development to cover a portion of the costs of capital facilities needed to serve new development. Silverton collects parks and recreation SDCs for all new residential development within the City. Revenue from SDCs can be used only for land acquisition and development related to growth and may not be used for maintenance.

General Obligation Bonds (G.O. Bonds)

G.O. Bonds are debt instruments sold to fund new capital facilities or make improvements to existing facilities. These bonds are repaid with property tax revenue generated by a special levy that is outside the property tax limits imposed by Measure #5 (1990) and Measure #50 (1997). Voters must approve G.O. Bonds, and this approval must occur in a general election in an even-numbered year, or in another election in which at least 50% of registered voters participate.

Local Option Levy for Capital Improvements

A local option levy for capital improvements provides for a separate property tax levy outside the City’s permanent rate limit, but subject to the \$10 combined rate limit imposed under Measure #5. The levy may be used to fund a capital project or a group of projects over a specified period, up to 10 years. Revenues from these levies may be used to secure bonds for projects, or to complete one or more projects on a “pay as you go” basis. Voters must approve local option levies, and this approval must occur in a general election in an even-numbered year, or in another election in which at least 50% of registered voters participate. These levies may be considered for projects but are not a good

alternative to G.O. bonds for large projects or groups of projects.

Federal/State/Other Grants

Federal, state, and other government agencies and foundations sometimes make funds available to serve specific purposes related to parks and recreation, such as land and water conservation, open space preservation, or bicycle path construction. In addition to often requiring a local match, grants may also have other conditions and limitations, such as providing for project planning but not for construction. The availability of grants is limited, but may be useful for specific project needs, such as pathways and trails or greenways acquisition. Some potential sources of grants are listed below.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) administers this program, which uses federal dollars from the Department of Interior, National Park Service that are passed down to states for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks, recreation areas and facilities.

Web: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRA/Pages/GRA-lwcf.aspx> Contact: Nohemi Enciso
Grants Program Coordinator
503-480-9092

Local Government Grant Program

OPRD also administers this program, which provides funding for public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. These areas and facilities must be open and accessible to the public at large.

Web: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRA/Pages/GRA-lggp.aspx> Contact: Mark Cowan
Grants Program Coordinator
503-951-1317

Heritage Program Grants

The Heritage Programs Division offers grants for various types of historic preservation and heritage-related projects.

Web: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Grants.aspx>
Contact: Kuri Gill
Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator
503-986-0685

Recreation Trails Program

Every year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department accepts applications for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants. Projects eligible for RTP funding include the maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, construction of new recreation trails, and acquisition of easements and fee simple titles to property.

Web: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRA/Pages/GRA-rtp.aspx>
Contact: Jodi Bellefeuille
Grants/Contracts Coordinator
503-856-6316

Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

The Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funds pedestrian and bicycle projects which are situated within existing streets, road, or highway right-of-way. Eligible projects include sidewalk infill, pedestrian crossings, intersection improvements, and minor roadway widening for bikeways.

Web: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/> Contact: Jessica Horning
Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Management Oregon Department of Transportation 503-986-3555

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Grants and technical assistance through Business Oregon are available to develop livable urban communities for persons of low and moderate incomes by expanding economic opportunities and providing housing and suitable living environments. Eligible projects include community facilities.

Web: <https://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/cdbg/pages/default.aspx>

Contact: Arthur Chaput
Region 5 Development Officer
503-798-5076

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

This organization funds projects to conserve and restore fish, wildlife and native plants through challenge grants, small grants, and special grants.

Web: <https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant>

Pacific Northwest Region
503-417-8700

The Collins Foundation

The Foundation funds projects that focus on developing the arts, humanities, education, environment, religion, youth activities, and community.

Web: <http://www.collinsfoundation.org>

Contact: Kweli Jaoko
Executive Program Assistant
kjaoko@collinsfoundation.org
503-227-7171

Ford Family Foundation

This foundation makes grants to organizations in rural Oregon communities and the northwest for projects related to community improvement and development, education, and recreation.

Web: <https://www.tfff.org/how-we-fund/grants>

Contact: Carol Dalu
Grants Manager
541-957-5574

Meyer Memorial Trust

The Trust offers both general-purpose grants and small grants for capital projects, program development, general operations, and continuing project support.

Web: <https://mmt.org/apply/grant-types>

Contact: Chanta Chhay
Senior Grants Manager
503-228-5512

The Oregon Community Foundation

The Oregon Community Foundation makes grants to tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations throughout Oregon for various causes including community enrichment, economic development, capital projects, program development and expansion, and matching funding. This source is a potential for projects that involve partnering between the City and eligible organizations.

Web: <https://oregoncf.org/grants-and-scholarships/>

Contact: Comet James
Grants Manager
503-944-2139

River Network

River Network offers watershed assistance grants to local watershed partnerships to support organizational development and long-term effectiveness.

Web: <http://www.rivernetwork.org>

Contact: River Network

Special Assessment/Local Improvement Districts

Residents may choose to form a local improvement district (LID) to pay for capital improvements or maintenance of facilities through special assessments on their property. This method requires the approval of at least 51% of the owners of land within the proposed district and must represent at least 51% of the land abutting the proposed improvement.

Local Option Levy for Operations

A local option levy for operations provides for a separate property tax levy outside the City's permanent rate limit, subject to the \$10 combined rate limit imposed under Measure #5. These levies may be useful to fund operations and maintenance activities over a specified period, up to 5 years. Voters must approve local option levies and this approval must occur in a general election in an even numbered year, or in another election in which at least 50% of registered voters participate. This source should be considered for funding City parks operations and maintenance activities.

User Fees and Rents

User fees and rents are direct charges to individuals and groups who use specific programs, facilities, and services. These fees and rents usually help pay only a portion of the costs of providing public programs and services. User fees generally are set at levels sufficient to cover only a portion of program and maintenance costs and are rarely used to fund capital projects. When renting a facility, the group or individual must comply with the rules and regulations of the specific facility. This source may provide very limited funds for operations and maintenance.

Sponsorships/Partnerships/Donations

Public, private, and/or not-for-profit organizations may be willing to fund outright or join with the City to provide additional parks and recreation facilities and/or services. For example, the City may receive assistance from local civic organizations in construction of picnic shelters, or may partner with a foundation for acquisition/development of natural areas, trails, etc. This method for funding is generally limited to specific projects or portions of projects and may be subject to the same types of requirements and conditions identified for grants, above. Some programs and organizations that specialize in land acquisition and protection for parks and open space conservation include the following:

The Trust For Public Land

The Trust for Public Land works exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being, helping conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. The Trust for Public Land works with government agencies and landowners to arrange for conservation easements or government ownership of lands to be used for parks, open space, and other recreational uses.

Web: <http://www.tpl.org>

Contact: The Trust for Public Land Oregon Field Office
541-322-0133

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation of the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy protects prairie grasslands, oak savannas, and similar lands in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Web: <http://www.natureconservancy.org>

Contact: The Nature Conservancy of Oregon
503-802-8100

F. Additional Recommendations

To assist with implementation of the Silverton Parks and Recreation Master Plan, outlined here are additional recommendations.

Establishing a Community Needs Assessment Program

Description

A comprehensive needs assessment is required to provide a well-rounded and targeted community recreation program. This is especially critical for Silverton because of the large number of groups and organizations involved in the service delivery system, rapid growth and change in the community, and the need to wisely use scarce resources.

Methodology

It is recommended that the City provide the leadership and create an Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee to develop a strategic plan involving existing providers, non-profit groups, businesses, vendors, sponsors, the City of Silverton, and the Silverton School District. Outlined here are suggested key tasks to conduct a community recreation needs assessment.

1. Examine Silverton's demographic profile, especially age, income, and race
2. Inventory existing recreation programs and services and providers
3. Conduct surveys of patrons and users of existing recreation programs and activities, examine recreation trends, and determine satisfaction levels, gaps, preferences, and attitudes (parents, children, and youth)
4. Conduct a school survey of elementary and high school students to determine preferences, needs, and priorities
5. Conduct a survey of adults through existing community organizations, newspaper inserts, or utility bills
6. From Tasks 1-5 prepare findings, distill into critical issues, and draw conclusions. For example, where are gaps in services, what target groups are most in need of programs and services, and how can the needs best be met
7. Develop a strategic recreation service delivery plan, including:
 - Community Recreation Mission Statement
 - Goal Statements – targets to implement the Mission Statement
 - Action Plan – implementing strategies to fulfill the goals
 - Performance Measures – specific benchmarks linked to the goals

Benefits and Outcomes

A strategic plan for community recreation establishes the structure and framework for capitalizing on the wide variety of community support organizations, harnessing resources, and directing them so that programs are not only efficiently managed and conducted, but also provide the highest level of community benefit.

Relationship to Master Plan Issues and Recommendations

The strategic plan addresses the issue of programmatic and organizational stress that is surfacing in the community, and the need for direction to effectively administer many recreation and sports programs.

Positioning Silverton to Capitalize on Recreation, Tourism, and Quality of Place

Description

The City of Silverton has been working to position itself solidly in the future as a sustainable community, with visionary decisions supporting The Oregon Garden and nearby Silver Falls State Park as tourist attractions, key acquisitions of public open space including the Pettit property, enhancement of Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park and renovation of Coolidge McClaine Park, and development of comprehensive master plans for downtown revitalization and transportation planning.

By adopting this long-range master plan and continuing to invest in the City's parks, recreation, and open space system as a major priority for public policy, Silverton can reach a tipping point in shaping its future – one that could become a model for small communities in Oregon.

Benefits and Outcomes

“Green infrastructure” and “community-oriented public spaces” are becoming well recognized as the driving forces for promoting economic prosperity, ecological health, sense of community and well-being – all key elements of a community's “quality of place” and “livability.” Silverton is fortunate to have magnificent opportunities for establishing quality of life goals that would be the envy of any city – natural and cultural assets, compact growth, and human scale. For example, traffic congestion – i.e. the automobile, is becoming a problem that a walkable community can overcome, and at the same time contributes to health and fitness. Connecting families and youth with nature and the outdoors is an opportunity that is ever present. These amenities in turn can be leveraged to attract high quality businesses and create new markets for an even wider variety of recreation opportunities such as coffee houses, arcades, and other private sector enterprises.

Silverton's propensity for youth involvement in sports programs could become a major part of the City's economy if a regional sports center attracts regional tournaments and league play.

Community vision coupled with strong doses of strategic planning, urban design, building relationships, creative financing, and action priorities can make it all happen.

Relationship to Master Plan Issues and Recommendations

The master plan documents extraordinary opportunities for Silverton to meet economic, social, recreational, and greenspace needs. Ingredients are present for creating a “quality of place” that can help the community achieve economic prosperity, sense of community, and well-being.

Emerging Business Approach for Managing Basic Parks, Recreation Programs, and Open Spaces

Description

Parks and recreation managers struggle to provide basic services with limited operational funds.

Faced with unprecedented budget constraints, in the recent past various management models have been explored including efforts such as making parks and recreation programs more “self sustaining” through fees and charges, and other revenue generating operations. What these models have demonstrated is twofold: (1) Parks and recreation programs require a more business- like approach to be fully accountable, set priorities, and manage efficiently and effectively within a community’s financial capabilities; and (2) It is essential to recognize that the fundamental business of public parks and recreation programs is to provide community service, with a solid commitment of public funds that can in turn be leveraged in a multitude of ways to create a robust and healthy park, recreation and open space system. Clearly, there is no “silver bullet.”

Benefits and Outcomes

Leveraging public dollars requires a strategic business plan that sets goals, priorities, creative action strategies, and performance measures. Successful parks and recreation departments are directed by professionals who interface and build relationships with community leaders, local groups, and businesses; harness creative thoughts of the community; and develop a solid program of excellence including green infrastructure and responsive recreation services. These are specific characteristics of this approach:

- Sound decisions are based on sound information. Due diligence is necessary, for example, in purchasing or accepting property within the system. What are the benefits, what are the costs? Benefit/cost analysis will take in all factors, creating a systems approach to decision making.
- A business model helps to manage a system. Decisions for whether to establish fees and charges to meet program costs should be based on the adopted philosophy. For example, revenue opportunities may be appropriate but foregone without a business plan.
- A sound fee program is based on marketing knowledge, knowledge of community demographics, dialogue with the community, and a business plan that is accepted by policy makers.
- Providing services either in-house or through contracted services is a decision that needs to be made with solid information. Can the program be better served by contracting the service or managing the program in house? Is the community receiving the best return for its investment?
- Relationships with the community can be extremely rewarding. Trail easements, conservation easements, volunteer efforts, and gifts and donations can be the outcome of creating solid relationships.
- Comprehensive, integrated, and strategic business approaches explore the full range of creative opportunities to implement parks and recreation master plans including grants, volunteer labor and sweat equity, bargain sales of land, and community good will through community contributions such as life estates, gifts, and donations.

Relationship to Master Plan Issues and Recommendations

Silverton has outstanding opportunities to continue developing a “sense of place” and maintain the community’s special character and well-being. Investing in quality parks, recreation and open space system is one of the key components of community livability that cannot and should not be ignored.

Appendix A

Classification System and Definitions

| Size | | Purpose and Functions | Silverton System |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| PARKS AND GREENSPACES | | | |
| <i>Neighborhood Park</i> | 2-10 acres | Basic unit of the system; serving as recreational and social neighborhood focus with 1/4-1/2 mi. radius. Playground, picnic area, informal play area, natural area. Avoid sports fields for organized play. No restrooms | Steelhammer Site, Pioneer Park |
| <i>Joint School-Park</i> | Variable | Either undivided ownership for combined school and park functions or City acquisition for more formal partnership. Same functions as neighborhood park | Mark Twain School-Park |
| <i>Community Park</i> | 30-50 acres | Focus on community-based recreation needs and preserving special landscapes and natural habitats; group picnic facilities, pavilions, small amphitheater, playground, court sports, restrooms | Coolidge McClaine Park Proposed new park |
| <i>Natural Area Greenspace</i> | Enough to protect resources | Areas valued for natural features, disappearing landscapes, special habitats, and visual aesthetics that support a wide range of passive recreation uses such as nature and scenic enjoyment, walking, solitude, information play, and environmental education | Pettit Property Natural Area |
| <i>Greenway</i> | Usually linear, no limitations | Ribbons of riparian lands along rivers and creeks that support habitat protection, community trails and other passive recreational use; major function is to provide connectivity and “Green Infrastructure” | Recommended Silver Creek Greenway |
| <i>Private Common Area & Open Space</i> | Variable | Small “pocket parks” or greenspace areas such as small lakes and wetlands that are privately owned, usually by homeowners or adjacent lot owners, and have limited public use functions | Abiqua Heights Hawthorne Village Oak Knoll Estates Pioneer Lake Silver Street Townhouses Webb Lake |
| <i>Special Use Area</i> | Variable | Parks and greenspaces that tend to function either as single-purpose areas or sites that have distinctive functions (a downtown park); also, small “pocket parks” with limited public recreation uses | Coolidge McClaine Park Lincoln Park |
| <i>Regional Site</i> | Variable | Sites that attract visitors from a large area including tourist destinations and specialized use supported by a major natural or special feature such as a water body | Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park |
| SPORTS FACILITIES | | | |
| <i>School Playfields</i> | Variable | Outdoor sports fields including multi-purpose fields, soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, practice fields, court facilities for basketball and tennis, and gyms that are available for after-school community use. | Mark Twain School Robert Frost School Silverton High School |
| <i>Community Sports Complex</i> | 25-50 acres | Sports fields including soccer, baseball, softball, and multi-use fields designed for competitive league and tournament play, designed as a complex including lighted threeplex and fourplex diamonds with concessions, picnic and playground areas, restrooms, | |

| | | | |
|---|----------|--|---|
| | | parking | |
| RECREATION FACILITIES | | | |
| <i>Special Facility</i> | Variable | Facilities designed primarily for specific community recreational use such as swimming pools and water play facilities, recreation centers, skateparks, off-leash dog parks | Senior Center, Skatepark, Recreation Ctr, Dog park, Silverton Swimming Pool |
| TRAILS | | | |
| <i>Multi-use Trail Nature Trail</i> | Variable | Multi-purpose, multi-modal trails that support safe travel for bicycles and pedestrians; also, community and neighborhood connectors; recreational trails in greenways, parks, natural areas | Silver Creek Pathway Pettit Natural Area |

Appendix B

20 Year Recommended Project List

| PARKS, FACILITIES AND GREENSPACES | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Priority Level | Project/Location | Description | 2008 Master Plan Cost Estimate |
| In progress | Pickleball, Senior Center Property | Add pickleball courts and additional parking | |
| In progress | Pettit Park - Phase 1 | Add connector trail to parking lot, reservoir trail loop, mountain biking/hiking trails | |
| High | New City Hall Park Property | Design and develop downtown plaza for mutli-use events such as farmer's market. Add splash pad or similar water feature. | |
| High | New Sports Fields Complex | Acquire land and develop sports fields such as soccer | |
| High | New Recreation Center | Work with community partners to build a new recreation center including multi-purpose gym, multi-use space, fitness center, offices. | \$5,000,000 |
| High | Ike Mooney Property | Design and develop natural park including items such as parking, picnic area, disk golf, etc. | |
| Medium | New Park Restrooms | Add a restroom to parks such as downtown plaza | |
| Medium | School Sports Field Renovation | Renovation and improvements to existing sports fields including drainage improvements, irrigation, new equipment, and turfgrass renovation. | \$600,000 |
| Medium | Pettit Park - Phase 2 | Design and development of amenities such as water access and picnic shelter. | |
| Medium | Steelhammer Neighborhood Park | Acquisition, planning, and development of land near Steelhammer Rd. | \$2,100,000 |
| Medium | Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park Development | Entry enhancement, "Green" parking lot expansion, and upgrade including biofiltration and "Green" composting restroom replacement; new loop nature trail and environmental education features including interpretive displays; feasibility study of Silver Creek footbridge below dam and Silver Creek access for canoes and kayaks; family and group picnic facilities; designated swimming area; explore efficiency of parking lot capacity and alternate modes of transportation. Acquire additional 50 acres for water quality protection | \$1,000,000 |

| | | | |
|--------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Low | Silver Creek Put-in / Take-out Site Development | Develop one additional access site at Coolidge McClaine Park for canoes, tubes, kayaks to complement the Wastewater Treatment Plant site | \$15,000 |
| Low | Wastewater Treatment Plant Opportunity Area | 1500 linear feet of trail for creek access, non-motorized boat access, small parking lot, information kiosk, viewing platform, and interpretive displays | \$100,000 |
| Low | Silverton Swimming Pool Feasibility Study | Update feasibility study to determine if a new facility should be built on a new site or if the existing facility should be upgraded with options to include additional family water play. | |
| Low | Webb Lake Neighborhood Park | Acquisition, planning, and development of land near Webb Lake | |
| Low | Pine Street Area Park | Acquisition, planning, and development of land near Pine Street | |
| Low | Mark Twain School-Park Acquisition & Development | Partnership with Silver Falls S.D. for designation and acquisition of 3-ac oak grove and greenspace as a joint neighborhood school-park; also acquisition of 1.4-ac triangle to enlarge functional open space; planning and basic infrastructure development | \$150,000 acq \$330,000 dev |
| Medium | Westside Gateway Park | Design and develop Westside Gateway Park as a neighborhood park with a connector trail. | |
| Medium | Existing Park Improvements | Upgrade Lincoln Park, Coolidge McClaine Park, and Pioneer Park. Improvements to include accessibility and upgraded site furniture. Add an amphitheater at Coolidge McClaine Park. | |

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

| Priority Level | Project/Location | Description | 2008 Master Plan Cost Estimate |
|----------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| High | Comprehensive Greenways & Trails Plan | Prepare a citywide greenways & trails plan including on-street, off-street, rails to trails and multi-use pathways. Include feasibility study for Silver Creek Greenway. | \$130,000 |
| Medium | Greenway Phase | Design and construct greenway from Pioneer to Abiqua Heights to Coolidge McClaine Park. | |
| Medium | Coolidge McClaine Park to Oregon Garden Pathway | Pedestrian improvements between Coolidge McClaine Park, The Oregon Garden and Pettit Property, via Keene & Eureka Avenue | |
| Low | Greenway Phase | Design and construct greenway from Silverton High School to Mark Twain Elementary School | |
| Low | Greenway Phase | Connect Abiqua Heights to Webb Lake | |
| Low | Mount Angel Regional Greenway | Work with the City of Mount Angel to design and develop a greenway connection along the highway 214 corridor from Mount Angel to Downtown Silverton and Silver Creek. | |

| | | | |
|-----|---|--|-----------|
| | Rail Corridor Multi-use Trail Development | Construct multi-use trail along 1.3 mi. rail line from North Urban Growth Boundary to "C" Street and Silver Creek | \$400,000 |
| Low | Pedestrian Bridge Construction | Construct Silver Creek pedestrian bridge at Cowing Street to provide additional access to Coolidge McClaine Park | \$194,000 |

Appendix C

Survey Monkey Public Question #10 Results

Q10 Do you have any additional comments?

Answered: 177 Skipped: 288

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1 | As a weekly vendor at the farmer's market, I am excited and grateful that a new space is being planned for the market. However, I would like to advocate for sufficient parking be allocated for customers, something that I feel is critical for the market's success. Events and festivals seem to be a good indicator of impact of limited parking. Each event/festival has a significant impact on sales (on average, I believe, a 50% reduction in income), based mostly on the lack of sufficient parking or market access, making it both difficult for regular customers to access the market. Also, event goers frequently stumble on the market unaware, and it surprises me that the farmer's market is not advertised in event information. I hope that sufficient parking is planned for the potential new farmer's market location, and that the market can be seen for what it is and could be, adding a great deal of character and value to the city's offerings. | 8/30/2023 3:04 PM |
| 2 | I want more walking / hiking loops. The skat park needs more trees - it is way too sunny for my son to enjoy in the summer. My partner works at the farmers market and it needs a space with more parking so that the sales are so variable with tourist events. The city is also majorly lacking in a rent-by-the hour commercial kitchen space where food entrepreneurs can make products with an ODA license and we can build entrepreneurship in this town, not just farm direct exempt products. It is wild that towns of similar size to silverton have so many more food entrepreneurs. Why? because there is infrastructure to support them. My daughter really loves the town square park and this vegetative edge that she can hide in with her friends, please don't change that. | 8/30/2023 2:44 PM |
| 3 | Much work was done several years ago in terms of creating safer bike lanes. They have all but disappeared by the high school and our one block lane by GoodWill is a joke as well as C street lane. The construction of the new Civic center has erased all of the bike lanes that were painted on 2 years ago. There needs to be a real effort in this area as well as educating drivers about what the signs mean. | 8/29/2023 8:39 PM |
| 4 | Thanks for keeping our community a great one. We've left twice and always return because of the community and tradition upheld | 8/29/2023 9:45 AM |
| 5 | I would like to have a permanent space for the Farmers' Market included in the plans for space surrounding the new City Hall. The market must be available to buy fresh food during the entire growing season. We have an especially appealing Farmers' Market in Silverton. It draws tourists as well as providing fresh, healthful food to Silvertonians and visitors. It serves the community as a whole, especially my friends who buy food with Oregon Trail cards. It supports the people who provide us with our food. What could be more an important use of space? | 8/28/2023 4:45 PM |
| 6 | Parks are swell and all, but I would like to see priority given to affordable housing when it comes to developing/using city-owned empty lots. | 8/27/2023 9:27 PM |
| 7 | to repeat a comment above: Devote as much space as possible in the new civic center development to public use and parks. Do not create extra parking. There is an entire area across A street that could be entirely parking. Eugene Field School regularly had 60+ adults in the building and often more and the community managed. We need more green space in the central core area, not more hard surfaces. Thank you. PS. It seems to me that it is possible that more than one business owner / employee in the central business district regularly parks in the spaces that logically would be reserved for visitors to downtown. | 8/27/2023 2:54 PM |
| 8 | Please consider covered or indoor pickleball courts!! It's the fastest growing sports young kids love it too. It's now a sport in collages!! | 8/25/2023 11:18 PM |
| 9 | I live up against A one of the three county out lots between the city limits & the century farm. I wish there were a playground near the highschool for our kids. Hard without sidewalks or shoulders on the roads to get the kids to any playgrounds safely. Especially as new bike riders. We would sometimes go to Lincoln, but almost got hit twice. | 8/25/2023 7:42 AM |
| 10 | Farmers Market relocated near the new police station would be a top priority. | 8/24/2023 3:59 PM |

| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 11 | The Farmers' Market is a huge contributor to making Silverton a thriving community. Please support the Farmers' Market. Thanks for conducting this survey. | 8/24/2023 3:40 PM |
| 12 | We need to straightens and support our Farmers Market. A strong vibrant market is a sign of a strong community. It keeps money in the hands of the local farms. It creates a meeting place to connect the local citizens and promotes healthy eating. I would like to see a commitment from our city to provide a year-round location and to see the city help with promote the market. | 8/24/2023 2:52 PM |
| 13 | Farmers markets are colorful, festive and happy. Would be nice to move ours to new city hall or ratchet brewery lot for welcoming atmosphere rather than ugly industrial vibe coming in from Mt. Angel. Better parking and less traffic disruption too! | 8/24/2023 11:05 AM |
| 14 | Putting the Farmers Market at the new Civic Center will be a BIG win for Silverton, the 30+ local businesses that the Farmers Market houses, the 1000+ customers that visit weekly, and the people of Silverton for which the market serves. They need customer parking and high visibility on a city street. They need a permanent home! Please, for the sake of this community gem, allow us to occupy the south side of the new Civic Center on Saturdays on a paved space that can be used for so many things during our off hours. Please consider us. We cannot survive with all of the street closures on Fiske and McClaine throughout our peak harvest season. We have zero parking on those days. We would appreciate any and all possibilities of a permanent space in the downtown area. Our market can flourish and our community and community farmers will as well. Thanks for listening! 'It takes a village.' | 8/24/2023 10:35 AM |
| 15 | Thank you city employees for all your hard work! | 8/24/2023 10:04 AM |
| 16 | Please consider a permanent Farmers Market space as part of the new City Hall land/hard scaping. Relocating the Farmers Market to the new City Hall would make the Farmers Market more visible to residents and tourists traveling Water St and 1st St. and enhance the downtown area. A visible Farmers Market showcasing fresh, local produce benefits everyone. Adding a splash pad/small playground to this area would bring more families and increase Market potential. | 8/23/2023 8:57 PM |
| 17 | Like some other residents of (E) am spoiled by accessible HOA maintained Open space, need more city wide, plus more kid friendly play spaces, | 8/23/2023 3:34 PM |
| 18 | Parking is a major problem in town. We need more parking to be able to go and enjoy the area and not have it a deterrent. Instead of adding a new park why not make the ones we have nicer | 8/22/2023 8:22 PM |
| 19 | We have a kid who is on the spectrum and is terrified of dogs, which trigger a panic reaction for him. I don't know how much official off-leash area there is for dogs, but people often don't keep their dogs on leash when they are supposed to. That makes so much of the city inaccessible for our kid, whether it's hiking trails or waterways. Even the farmer's market is sometimes overrun by barking, off-leash dogs and their apologetic-but-happily-irresponsible owners. If there were anything you could do about making more dog-free areas, that would make a huge difference to my kid and children like him. | 8/22/2023 7:40 PM |
| 20 | I can walk to the city park because I am close enough, but I feel each neighborhood should have a nearby park. | 8/22/2023 2:42 PM |
| 21 | I love this town! One specific note re: the Farmers Market. It would be great to designate a permanent home for the market at the new civic center site. This would provide better access for both customers & vendors and help solve the accessibility challenges during large community events such as Homer Davenport Days & The Arts Festival. | 8/22/2023 9:49 AM |
| 22 | We would really love for the Silverton Farmers Market to be included in the new City Hall site. We are such a vibrant part of the community, and continue to grow every year. There are NO other small town markets like ours in Oregon, and we draw in people as far away as West Salem, Molalla, Canby, and Woodburn every Saturday for the best produce and culture of the market. | 8/22/2023 8:42 AM |
| 23 | Please create an adequate space for the farmers market with parking for patrons | 8/22/2023 8:06 AM |
| 24 | We need a permanent space for the farmers market | 8/22/2023 7:46 AM |
| 25 | Rural elderly family. We come into Silverton less and less due to inadequate parking and crowding. Love the concept of Farmer's Market, but unable to support it due to lack of parking. | 8/22/2023 7:24 AM |
| 26 | Lets use the area south of the new civic center for events like farmers markets | 8/22/2023 6:35 AM |

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| 27 | Please include in the City Hall Area the ability for the Farmer's Market to use the space. This is a much needed activity in our Community that brings us together; creates Unity. Throughout history, the "Famer's Market" has been at the core of Community. It supports our local farmers, artists, crafters, etc. and provides fellowship amongst Community members. Blessings! | 8/22/2023 6:31 AM |
| 28 | I would like to see the Saturday market at an indoor/outdoor facility so it could be open more often during the year. | 8/22/2023 5:43 AM |
| 29 | We want Silverton to keep its small town charm and safe, friendly environment. Saturday market needs a permanent home so as not to conflict with activities at McLaine Coolidge Park. | 8/22/2023 5:20 AM |
| 30 | Easier access to parking for the farmers market for visitors from out of town and for the locals would be awesome. It would also give us more opportunity to expand the number of vendors. This would, of course increase the number of people that would come to the market. | 8/21/2023 10:40 PM |
| 31 | Consider a durable surface area such as that where the food carts are for a venue where farmers market as well as other events could set up. | 8/21/2023 9:29 PM |
| 32 | Need bathrooms at Pioneer Park. Regardless what "neighbors" say. It is not their park. It is a City park. | 8/21/2023 4:36 PM |
| 33 | NO MORE PARKS. We have plenty of spaces to gather. The ones we have should be better maintained. The mosaic fountain in the city park is hardly ever operational and so much time, money and effort went into that. Ben Johnson's The Den is a wonderful example of a gathering spot, well maintained. Until our current gathering spots are kept up and crowded we certainly don't need to add any more. | 8/21/2023 4:23 PM |
| 34 | Old Mill playground is looking great; can't wait. I'd love a bridge at Salamander Island, and more convenient creek access at Salamander Island. | 8/21/2023 2:58 PM |
| 35 | What do we need to bring in visitors. I would think acquiring property would be prohibitive for most of this. | 8/21/2023 1:23 PM |
| 36 | The reservoir needs a swimming area separate from the boat dock. Pettit lake should be developed as an alternate swimming, boating day use area. | 8/21/2023 12:03 PM |
| 37 | Our community is now large enough to have a "parks and rec" program. Outdoor athletic facilities is a very large need in this community. Currently, the majority of sports facilities, both indoor and out are owned by the school district. Between school athletics and community athletics these facilities are at capacity. Both indoor/outdoor rec facilities would be a great assets to this community. | 8/20/2023 6:29 PM |
| 38 | Please continue paved sidewalk up East on Main St up to Steelhammer. It stops abruptly at East Main and South Ames St. | 8/20/2023 9:30 AM |
| 39 | Paved biking/walking trails are essential given our lack of continuous sidewalks in silverton. reconsider paving the railroad in town!! | 8/20/2023 9:20 AM |
| 40 | Need more trees around Pioneer Park. Need to fence in parks with 1 way in and 1 way out access to help parents keep their children safe. More benches at parks around playgrounds for parents. More picnic tables and covered areas at Pioneer Park. Public restrooms st Pioneer Park. | 8/19/2023 7:38 PM |
| 41 | A new central, covered and paved/ permeable concrete type space for events like the Farmers Markets and concerts would be fantastic! | 8/19/2023 4:22 PM |
| 42 | It would be nice to have a walking trail through the wetland area by the industrial park that is unusable for building. | 8/18/2023 12:03 PM |
| 43 | We love the outdoors! It is important to our health and wellness to be outdoors even during the winter months. Finding more spaces to enjoy the outdoors year round is always a challenge. | 8/18/2023 7:06 AM |
| 44 | There are no parks at all near Pine and James - all of the green space is owned by the SFSD. The town should have agreed with the SFSD on a plan to revert some of the space by the old high school to public use, since that facility no longer needed so many fields, esp given that the new high school has a ridiculous amount of green space. Silverton has a pathetically small amount of green space, parks, trails, etc. The fact that the city is determined to put more housing on the westfield property is also pathetic, given that that's essentially the last bit of unused public land in town that could and should be a park or nature area. Other towns - McMinnville, Lebanon, Albany - are all working on major plans to build out trails, bike paths, | 8/17/2023 10:20 AM |

etc. Silverton is and has only focused on housing, though I'm not sure why, since this isn't a place people want to move to anymore, once they learn how poorly managed it is. The fact that the Parks and Recreation Plan hasn't been updated since 2008 is also pathetic - not that the old one was even followed.

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| 45 | Baseball and softball players need more indoor options for training and practice. | 8/17/2023 9:34 AM |
| 46 | I strongly believe we need a plaza next to the civic center. Plaza's have always provided a means for community to come together. For people of all ages to gather and paint, play chess, people watch, sing, dance, etc. A plaza allows people from all walks of life in Silverton to come together. | 8/17/2023 9:30 AM |
| 47 | Please do not add more parking downtown. We have more than enough already and too much parking is a prosperity killer. | 8/15/2023 9:37 PM |
| 48 | Please please please do not put a parking lot in downtown silverton. That would be the ugliest, dumbest, non community oriented use of space | 8/15/2023 9:14 PM |
| 49 | Need to finish sidewalk on south Water Street southeast of Southside market! | 8/15/2023 4:05 PM |
| 50 | Improve the lighting at the bridge crossing silver creek at the water station ? Too dark at night and can't see the pathway near the steps. | 8/15/2023 2:23 PM |
| 51 | A paved biking trail that connects Silverton to Mt. Angel would be amazing. My second priority request is a walking loop that connects existing walking paths across town and/or improved hiking trails at McClain park. | 8/15/2023 2:20 PM |
| 52 | Although there is a park on Lincoln Street it lacks amenities that my family enjoys. | 8/15/2023 10:27 AM |
| 53 | Covered and/or indoor courts would allow high school tennis athletes and adult tennis athletes to play year round. There is large interest in tennis in our community from young (elementary age) to old as can be seen at the summer tennis camps held at the high school outdoor courts each year. In order to maintain fitness and skill level, these athletes of all ages must travel outside of Silverton in the fall and winter and commute in the dark. | 8/14/2023 11:03 AM |
| 54 | We need sports fields and to take back the pool from the Y. If we could create a rec district, like Tualatin Hills Park and Rec, that would benefit the town and the people living here. Those not in the rec district would pay more than those in. | 8/14/2023 9:06 AM |
| 55 | Additional access and parking to the silverton Reservoir would be great. | 8/13/2023 8:33 AM |
| 56 | It would be great to have 4 to 6 outdoor pickle ball courts. Additionally more youth soccer fields are needed. | 8/12/2023 7:38 PM |
| 57 | I love to ride my bike. We need more bike infrastructure- lanes, paths and places to park and lock bikes. I live out off of Abiqua Rd. I would love to have a better bike path that went thru the country spaces between Silverton/Mt Angel. | 8/12/2023 10:46 AM |
| 58 | I would love to see Silverton improve its biking/walking paths both into and around town. We should paths to access the reservoir, the Oregon Garden, Wayside Park, and Mt. Angel, as well as a path that circumnavigates town, going up Steelhammer and through the Pioneer area. I would love to mountain bike trails developed on the Petit property and at the top of Ike Mooney. We have so much natural beauty and space that could be used for residents to enjoy as well as to attract visitors. | 8/12/2023 8:37 AM |
| 59 | Multi use walking/biking trails that connect the city and outer limits would be a great addition to our town! | 8/11/2023 8:58 PM |
| 60 | Nothing at this time | 8/11/2023 5:00 PM |
| 61 | We need crosswalk improvements!!!! Aggressive drivers in Cars and giant pickup trucks are destroying quality of life here. Noise and speeding too. | 8/10/2023 7:38 PM |
| 62 | I would love to see walkway between Mill Street and over to Webb lake area or something that connects Webb lake area to downtown that doesn't involve walking where there are no sidewalks | 8/10/2023 5:36 PM |
| 63 | We Def need an upgraded aquatic center and a splash pad for kids | 8/10/2023 4:07 PM |
| 64 | See note above about trees. Even on a day that is not super hot, it's pretty awful to walk around town due to lack of trees and the shade they offer. | 8/10/2023 3:46 PM |

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| 65 | Please make every new developments up to ADA standards and accessible for disabled children and adults. More accessible ways to explore our lovely creek, greenways, and bird watching sites with accessible non-car traffic pathways need to be prioritized. There are too many aggressive drivers in town that make it dangerous to walk to the various unconnected natural areas and parks. Especially for those of us are disabled or pushing strollers or wheelchairs through town. More accessibility is imperative. More safe crosswalks, more bike paths. | 8/10/2023 3:44 PM |
| 66 | It would be amazing to keep the recreation as close to downtown as possible so people can walk everywhere when downtown :) | 8/9/2023 11:11 PM |
| 67 | The need for more sports facilities should be the biggest priority. The city is growing at a very high rate and there is no where for these children to engage in safe activities. You can't expect success in athletics without space to learn and grow. The traveling involved for parents due to lack of gym space is rough. | 8/9/2023 8:36 PM |
| 68 | I strongly believe the City of Silverton should have a mural dedicated to the first Peoples of this area. I sent an email to Mayor Kyle Palmer on April 20, 2022, expressing my concern and requesting a First Peoples mural be painted on the new Civic Center building. Many thanks. | 8/9/2023 6:31 PM |
| 69 | Silverton community youth sports are bursting at the seams and desperately need multipurpose turf fields to accommodate practices and games that can be independent of school sport schedules | 8/9/2023 3:29 PM |
| 70 | No camp sights!!!!!!! | 8/9/2023 2:06 PM |
| 71 | Please do not let a situation like the 'Eureka' property (adjacent to the Oregon Garden) repeat itself. That piece of land should have been preserved as a riparian wildlife attraction. Should the developer that owns it lose interest and sell it (my fingers are crossed), I hope the City invests in its preservation. | 8/9/2023 12:47 PM |
| 72 | Reservoir needs designated swim area so kids aren't injured in boat ramp. | 8/9/2023 10:16 AM |
| 73 | I don't think the first set of questions should carry much weight. If someone isn't doing much disc golf or visiting splash pads, it's because they're not available here. Hopefully the city is doing a good job distributing this survey. I only received it because our youth soccer coach sent it to us in hopes that people will say we need a public sports facility—which we do. | 8/9/2023 9:13 AM |
| 74 | We desperately need more facilities for youth sports - gym space, turf fields, etc. | 8/9/2023 8:26 AM |
| 75 | Please ensure that greenspace and tree coverage is maintained/included with the community center construction on the north side of downtown. It also needs to be examined as an issue affecting Milltown and the entire north half of the city. | 8/9/2023 8:11 AM |
| 76 | I help coach my kid's soccer team, and both my kids play baseball and softball. The lack of enough fields and space just to practice sports in this town is severely lacking in a town growing at the rate of Silverton. I'm all for playgrounds, but we now have two large playgrounds. The playground at Coolidge-McClain is underused, and I see no point in adding more. However, we have lots of kids who play organized sports or who want to play pickup games on their own, but you have to fight for space in Silverton. | 8/9/2023 7:23 AM |
| 77 | Relying on the schools to provide space for community soccer and football programs is limiting the growth of children's sports within our town. | 8/9/2023 6:51 AM |
| 78 | Need a park to meet needs as city grows south along water street. Need more developed access to Silver Creek (creek side walk, etc.). Connect Silverton to Mt. Angel and potentially Salem with bike/walk path (think rails to trails). Why is there no splash pad yet? | 8/8/2023 11:14 PM |
| 79 | The Reservoir would be so much better if there was more access to the water by kids. Right now, the only beach type access is where boats drop in. Just to the side, opposite the dam could be a nice spot for kids to play in if it had easier access | 8/8/2023 10:45 PM |
| 80 | Every time I suggest this and you don't listen. Make a path from the park to the resivior. | 8/8/2023 10:29 PM |
| 81 | Please prioritize having paved trails for biking, walking, and jogging. There is not a safe place for kids to ride bikes and run. We can do better for them. | 8/8/2023 10:13 PM |
| 82 | Please add more parks! For being the "Garden City" it's a shame we have so few public gardens. | 8/8/2023 10:00 PM |

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| 83 | We need more bike paths. Currently there are no safe bike paths for kids | 8/8/2023 9:59 PM |
| 84 | Partner with the school district to turf play/sport fields at the high school campus to utilize their existing infrastructure. This is by far the biggest opportunity to serve the most people with year round use facilities. | 8/8/2023 8:01 PM |
| 85 | I would suggest we develop the creek for public wading and aquatic activities. | 8/8/2023 7:38 PM |
| 86 | We really need public bathroom at Pioneer park and also a complex for soccer/lacrosse and such | 8/8/2023 7:09 PM |
| 87 | Please ensure that any new facilities have adequate parking. | 8/8/2023 4:07 PM |
| 88 | Youth Sports are booming in silverton and we need more access to fields, especially turf to train our teens and middle schoolers on the turf. When they travel to other turf fields, they are at a disadvantage, they need to be able to practice on both grass and turf to prepare them. Thanks! | 8/8/2023 3:55 PM |
| 89 | We need more of just about all outdoor activities, We should look at cities like Bends development programs for guidance. | 8/8/2023 3:22 PM |
| 90 | We need more multi purpose fields for sports asap! And a large splash pad! | 8/8/2023 2:53 PM |
| 91 | Need soccer fields | 8/8/2023 2:34 PM |
| 92 | Would like to see better partnerships with the Garden A paved pathway to the garden | 8/8/2023 1:55 PM |
| 93 | We love silverton! | 8/8/2023 1:45 PM |
| 94 | Stop spending money on parks. There are enough already . | 8/8/2023 1:42 PM |
| 95 | Please consider artificial turf fields for our youth to play on year round. | 8/8/2023 1:22 PM |
| 96 | I believe there is a playground planned for the new city center building area so that would be nice for my neighborhood. Access to artificial turf fields would be huge though. Once the ground gets wet, it is hard to find places to play/practice. | 8/8/2023 12:56 PM |
| 97 | We need more indoor gym space and outdoor fields | 8/8/2023 12:54 PM |
| 98 | Please prioritize an expanded walking/hiking trail system. | 8/8/2023 12:39 PM |
| 99 | I coach 3 soccer teams. We have 0 public space to play the game and must rely on school fields in which my kids don't get priority and have little availability. Please consider building multiple sport turf fields with lights. | 8/8/2023 12:20 PM |
| 100 | But the park near our home does not offer all the needs for Club Sports of Soccer or Football or a covered area to support children playing in the adverse weather. | 8/8/2023 12:13 PM |
| 101 | Need more SIDEWALKS connecting to city services like reservoir to neighborhoods | 8/8/2023 12:10 PM |
| 102 | The community desperately needs turf fields to accommodate youth sports which has doubled in participation in the past 5 years! Please, please! | 8/8/2023 12:06 PM |
| 103 | Highest priority is a connected trail system for walking / bikes that is not on the road. Connecting all corners of our community and to Mt. Angel too. | 8/8/2023 12:01 PM |
| 104 | Silverton has a large need for turf sports fields. | 8/8/2023 11:53 AM |
| 105 | We need synthetic turf fields! | 8/8/2023 11:45 AM |
| 106 | Why does the city hate kids? No!?! Then build them some sports fields and get them better access! | 8/8/2023 11:43 AM |
| 107 | We need more turf sports fields | 8/8/2023 11:39 AM |
| 108 | My kids and I used to bike all over the previous city we lived in. We stopped biking here because it feels unsafe with high speed limits and no room for cars to pass. We'd have to drive somewhere to ride our bikes. | 8/8/2023 11:38 AM |
| 109 | Soccer turf fields! | 8/8/2023 11:37 AM |
| 110 | Thank you for sending this survey out. As mentioned above, there seems to be a huge need for more facilities, and there have already been various groups meeting to address this exact | 8/8/2023 11:35 AM |

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| | topic. Would be great if everyone can work together. | |
| 111 | Need a soccer complex | 8/8/2023 11:34 AM |
| 112 | Silverton desperately needs more gym and field space for youth sports. We should prioritize multi use facilities to keep our kids engaged here in our community. | 8/8/2023 11:27 AM |
| 113 | We need more soccer fields | 8/8/2023 11:23 AM |
| 114 | I don't live in city limits but am very active in the community. Thank you for making this Master Plan a priority! | 8/8/2023 10:53 AM |
| 115 | We have great parks/options available. I'd love to see more trails along the creek. A dream (that's likely not feasible) would be to have a trolley run from ymca to the reservoir as the parking can be difficult at reservoir. | 8/8/2023 10:27 AM |
| 116 | We need to Turf fields! | 8/8/2023 10:15 AM |
| 117 | Remember the teens. | 8/8/2023 10:04 AM |
| 118 | Would love a "wild park" natural area where kids could ride bikes, dogs could run, people could go for long walks, picnic or play frisbee. Large open space, maybe with a kid area with a splash pad and a few swings. So basically, a little bit of everything. Maybe an extra soccer field too. 😊 | 8/7/2023 7:09 PM |
| 119 | Quality and efficiency. If you cannot maintain current facilities, structures, grounds, water, sewer etc. in a high quality standard, then you should not be building more. Ongoing maintenance has to be part of the budget. Efficiency. Take a hard look at how effeciant your current operations is performing. There is constantly city staff using multiple staff, when it could be easily done by one. Reduce greatly the amount of drive time. Staff are constantly driving back and forth from town to the shops. Be honest with yourselves when evaluating these thoughts. I spent 35 years in this buisiness, therefor have a lot of experience. P.S. Also thank you for what you do and the things that are not seen. | 8/7/2023 3:41 PM |
| 120 | We have enough parks in our town. The 'dog park" that is not a dog park should be for parking. | 8/7/2023 2:27 PM |
| 121 | Parks need more play equipment that the children with wheelchairs should be able to use. You need an infant playground | 8/7/2023 12:46 PM |
| 122 | I would like to have the space at eugene field to be a flex space for special events, parking and emergency gathering. We found out how invaluable the area was during the ice storm. No permanent structures should be erected. | 8/7/2023 12:08 PM |
| 123 | Trails needs to be safer for families to use, not places littered with homeless trash. | 8/7/2023 11:40 AM |
| 124 | The only park for our kids is at Mark Twain, which is inaccessible most days during the school year. | 8/7/2023 10:39 AM |
| 125 | Splash pad!! We drive to Mollala and Salem for these regularly. Also it makes no sense that there's no good nature walks or hikes nearby to town when we are surrounded by beautiful nature. Just maintaining the trail around the reservoir would be AMAZING! | 8/7/2023 8:31 AM |
| 126 | The northeast end of town is significantly and blatantly underserved in this regard! We have no park or other recreation facilities nearby other than Mark Twain. It'd be nice to see the equity of these ideas dispersed to more areas of town than center of town and other newer neighborhoods such as pioneer village or abiqua heights area. There is a large chunk of unused land at the north end of Norway street that would be fabulous to acquire as it sits between Webb lake, the gymnastics facilities and the Norway/oak street neighborhoods! Might be awesome adding connectivity between these areas! | 8/7/2023 8:26 AM |
| 127 | Do not use that space for disk golf or a park on the top of Ike Mooney. Leave it green! | 8/7/2023 6:33 AM |
| 128 | The City doesn't have any sports facilities. It can't even maintain its current parks at a normal standard level. Seems like service clubs enhance the parks any quality of life for the community. The city doesn't put a focus to enhance the quality of life for the entire community as a whole. Cuts some trees out of Coolidge McClaine Park and re-use the timber to create a cool amphitheater. Make a cool concert venue, create multi-use sporting fields. The council and city staff need to see other similar sized towns and compare. Silverton is way behind. | 8/6/2023 11:58 PM |
| 129 | Not having some sort of 'parks and rec' dept is just crazy. | 8/6/2023 10:25 PM |

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| 130 | Improve the boat docks at the reservoir and create a designated swim area. Increase daily parking fees to provide funding for dock renovations and seasonal summer monitoring of non parking area and boat docks. | 8/6/2023 8:00 PM |
| 131 | Everyone should be able to walk to a park within 10 minutes. | 8/6/2023 7:36 PM |
| 132 | Thank you for considering us when malign additions to our community. I know it is impossible to please everyone and I am extremely grateful for what we currently do have. A splash pad would be the cherry on top! | 8/6/2023 7:18 PM |
| 133 | We need public greenspace on this side of town, and the traffic calming that comes with it. PLEASE DO NOT turn Eugene field into a parking lot!!! We have loads of free street parking within blocks of it that is usually unused. If more parking is needed please also consider removing the meters on 1st and cutting deals with the owners of the many mostly-unused lots in this area. A big part of deciding to make our home here was the promise of a park. The thought of it becoming a parking lot is heartbreaking. | 8/6/2023 7:12 PM |
| 134 | I felt that there was a park close enough to my home until the new playground was installed, now I don't feel it suits my needs. | 8/6/2023 6:27 PM |
| 135 | Biking, running and hiking trails/roads please! | 8/6/2023 5:59 PM |
| 136 | We need an indoor sports facility so youth sports doesn't have to rely on the school district facilities | 8/6/2023 5:25 PM |
| 137 | Walking and running is tough around town especially given dangerous intersections and crosswalks. It would be so great to have a paved multi-use path at least a few miles in length...an indoor space for recreation would also be fantastic | 8/6/2023 5:00 PM |
| 138 | Silverton lacks wooded/forested hiking areas. Hiking paths in the Ike Mooney park with picnic facilities would be a wonderful addition to Silverton. Frisbee golf in a wooded area doesn't make sense if any trees are going to be removed. Silverton needs more trees for residents to enjoy and wildlife to live in. | 8/6/2023 4:42 PM |
| 139 | Please prioritize green space and play facilities for kids over additional parking - this town has more than enough parking if folks are just willing to walk a little | 8/6/2023 4:29 PM |
| 140 | Outdoor Amphitheatre is definitely lacking, as well as a covered area for the farmers market. A well staffed and solidified Parks and Recs department serving Silverton and Mt Angel would be great. | 8/6/2023 3:02 PM |
| 141 | More signs emphasizing bike safety and opportunities to ride without car traffic (protected and separate walking and biking options like paved or gravel paths). | 8/6/2023 3:01 PM |
| 142 | More parking at the reservoir or a shuttle to the reservoir. You could also install a city ran fee use inflatable obstacle course on the reservoir like they do in Wisconsin. That would absolutely bring visitors to town as I haven't seen it in Oregon yet. | 8/6/2023 2:53 PM |
| 143 | This town definitely could benefit from a splash pad/park. With children so young it's quite disappointing that we have to travel to neighboring towns to use a splash pad on hot days. Theyre to young to enjoy the river in town or the resivour. | 8/6/2023 2:52 PM |
| 144 | Safer biking around the town would be great! Also, there are some seriously dangerous crosswalks | 8/6/2023 2:52 PM |
| 145 | All parks need bathrooms. Having a small child makes it nearly impossible to go to the park for more than a few minutes. Pioneer park NEEDS a bathroom. | 8/6/2023 2:22 PM |
| 146 | No | 8/6/2023 1:52 PM |
| 147 | LOVE this town. | 8/6/2023 1:35 PM |
| 148 | Thank you. | 8/6/2023 9:48 AM |
| 149 | A bike trail between Silverton and Mt. Angel would be great for locals and tourism. | 8/6/2023 7:33 AM |
| 150 | Silverton could be an incredibly bike friendly and pedestrian friendly town but it isn't. The culture of the drivers isn't there for this, so there needs to be more safe options for walking and biking especially with so many little kids in our community. The crosswalk across c street continues to be so dangerous. Adding a parking lot to downtown could add even more traffic making it even less safe to walk/run/bike. Please just make the land in town more public | 8/6/2023 6:32 AM |

areas! Rails to trails should be evaluated again, please keep pressuring the railroads/state to relinquish that land for better use.

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| 151 | No disc golf! Use that ike mooney land with a better idea. | 8/5/2023 11:58 PM |
| 152 | We need better bike lanes and off road bike trails. We also need better access to the creek. The creek corridor should be a multi-modal path and not private access. The creek and its shores belong to the people | 8/5/2023 6:59 PM |
| 153 | Would like more bike lanes or off street bike paths. What about a pedestrian bridge across the creek at the end of Cowing Street to the path on the other side that leads to the park. | 8/5/2023 11:27 AM |
| 154 | I'm so sad the only open flat green space was turned into plastic playground. All ability is great, but you can never get back green space once a city paves it over. I wish we had better/safer biking and really really think the city needs to utilize the beauty of the creek moving forward. If there was a river trail (more than we have). More access than we have, swimming holes, etc silverton would drastically improve. | 8/5/2023 7:45 AM |
| 155 | As the population is aging, please keep those needs in mind. Due to my physical limitations, I need close by parking and level, smooth ground. It's nice to be able to get outside, walk and sit a bit. Go above and beyond ADA recommendations. Consult with people of varying limitations. | 8/4/2023 9:50 PM |
| 156 | Often the spaces we use as a family are difficult to reach because of parking. For example, there is already a substantial parking barrier for the pool and library but then the new play structures were added which will strain the already limited parking space. The community won't use facilities if we have to park 2 miles from it especially if it is for individuals with mobility issues. | 8/4/2023 7:57 PM |
| 157 | We need pickleball courts that are covered and lit. | 8/4/2023 4:43 PM |
| 158 | Ranking only five additional amenities for question 4 is difficult beings they are all excellent ideas. It is a good place to start and we applaud the forward-thinking vision for Silverton! | 8/4/2023 3:24 PM |
| 159 | More hiking and/or bike trails. Crosswalk on Water Street @ Peach St. Sidewalk across train tracks on James St. Turn train tracks into bike path between Silverton and Mr. Angel. | 8/4/2023 3:17 PM |
| 160 | I want tourism to continue in Silverton, so whatever we can do to bring in folks to spend money. We need more public parking though. | 8/4/2023 11:32 AM |
| 161 | We have a huge community of walker/bikers/roller blading/general outdoor lovers in our community. I believe to focus should be in developing our outdoors and wildlife areas. A safe and designated walking/bike path would be a great addition to our active town. Less large buildings added to our landscape and more community outdoor space. A more centralized community garden would be a great addition to the downtown area. Moving the farmers market closer to the crafters market would be ideal as well. | 8/4/2023 9:43 AM |
| 162 | Having lived in Silverton for the past 23 years, I believe the city has done a great job with what is here, for recreation. There are plenty of options already in place i.e. skatepark, playground, parks, dog parks, and pool. I don't believe a city anywhere, needs to provide all activities to its community. I personally like to see improvements to what is already in place. Should it be new paint, new equipment, trees and benches, or restroom facilities. Adding a splash pad to Coolidge-McClaine Park, would be an addition, to a fabulous and well-used park, already well attended. Another restroom on the opposite end of the same park, again would be a welcome addition, for those with "littles"! While there are "organic" walking trails along the creek, a bit of asphalt or tamped gravel, would be a welcome improvement. Maintaining what is already in place, provides residents with pride in their city. Should there be additional structures and/or outdoor spaces added, and current places neglected, then our little community will lose its cohesion. | 8/4/2023 8:16 AM |
| 163 | Upgrade/add community bathrooms | 8/4/2023 7:47 AM |
| 164 | We need safe and expanded access to the Silverton Reservoir for swimming, fishing and non-motorized access. There is grant programs through the Oregon State Marine Board specifically for non-motorized access. There are also grant programs through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Restoration and Enhancement Program) to create fishing access. These programs coupled with city funds, and other grants could really help us to increase safety and access for all. | 8/4/2023 6:55 AM |

| | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 165 | I am so impressed with the y this summer. They've done a great job and if the city can find ways to support them on a larger scale I think it would a great addition to the community! Thank you for your hard work! | 8/4/2023 5:30 AM |
| 166 | Did you know the community of Jefferson Oregon has a Parks and Recreation District? Keep the pickleball up by the skateboard park. Put a splash pad or water feature that children can play in on the south portion of the new City Hall. Or the A St. Property. Tie it in with a place the farmers market can set up. We have plenty of parking. The A St. property is in the HEART of downtown. Are sport courts what we want to show off to visitors? Thank you | 8/4/2023 3:30 AM |
| 167 | We need more spaces for our children to come together and play that is covered and has lots of activities | 8/3/2023 10:31 PM |
| 168 | Our community could benefit from a splash pad that is away from the creek and that is on throughout the summer time for smaller kids to cool off who don't know how to swim, or parents are unable to get in the water with them. | 8/3/2023 10:08 PM |
| 169 | There is a private park in our vicinity that we are allowed to walk in | 8/3/2023 8:33 PM |
| 170 | Pickleball players needs indoor and outdoor courts (with toilets). More walking trails needed. | 8/3/2023 4:01 PM |
| 171 | We need a couple splash pads for summer. It would be so nice to not have to drive somewhere for that. There's only so much space at the river by park to swim. | 8/3/2023 3:17 PM |
| 172 | Multi-use facilities are more profitable and useable. | 8/3/2023 3:08 PM |
| 173 | New to area. Safe bike paths/lanes are missing in this area! | 8/3/2023 2:19 PM |
| 174 | Pioneer Park needs bathrooms | 8/3/2023 1:36 PM |
| 175 | The city must absolutely ensure there is access to downtown Silverton for the Webb Lake Development via some pedestrian/bike routes. It is too dangerous for anyone walking or riding along Hobart to Second streets to access town. Kids are cut off from everything and as an older adult I am unable to walk or ride to town without fear of being hit by traffic. | 8/3/2023 12:07 PM |
| 176 | There has been at least two loooooong city planning projects in the last 10 years and only pioneer park and extension of skate park built. have you considered that there's been enough planning and consider building something! The 'conditions' of the city have barely changed. Waste of tax payer money. | 8/2/2023 4:23 PM |
| 177 | Another priority is safe paths to the schools, especially to the middle school and high school. My kids struggle to have people stop so they can safely cross by the Taco Bell. It's such a dangerous spot! | 8/2/2023 4:10 PM |

Appendix D

Stakeholder Interview Results

YMCA

The mission of the YMCA is to provide programming for any sports activity needed in the community if nobody else is providing it. They never compete with existing programs provided by other organizations. A list of programs they provide or partner with includes all things at the pool, Flag Football, Soccer, Pickleball, Basketball, Toddle Tuesdays, Summer Day Camp, and Baseball.

The YMCA is justifiably concerned about the statements from the previous meeting that says, "Little Support from the YMCA." The YMCA currently must file an application with the city every time they want to use the Gym in the Community Center. They can apply for a set time every day, week, or month, but if they want to do something new, they must ask the city. The YMCA has no fields of their own nor does the city. The YMCA must get permission to use any field from the school district. The YMCA does not currently own or control any facilities of its own other than the agreement with the city to run programs at the pool.

Current facilities in the community owned by either the school district or the city do not meet the sports activities of the community and thus do not meet the needs of the YMCA. The community is currently highly deficient in indoor Gym space, Baseball fields, and Soccer fields. There really needs to be centralized scheduling and control of sports activities spaces shared by multiple organizations in addition to the YMCA like Jazzercise, Youth Football, Soccer League, Platies, Gymnastics, Dance, and Little League. All these groups are competing to try to get space from the School District, the city, and private entities. There is just not enough space.

The big long-term focus needs to be on more indoor Gym space, Tennis/Pickleball courts, and Soccer Fields. A large open field space that is watered and mowed, but not developed for anything is needed. This would be an outdoor flex space that could be used for soccer, football, kickball, or all kinds of other stuff. Maybe the school districts' space North of the Middle school they are not using nor are they maintaining. Maybe a swap of land for building turf fields for the school district. This led to a big discussion on how Turf fields are not low maintenance. They don't require daily or weekly maintenance, but they must be reseeded annually, which is very expensive. Our community doesn't need any small or pocket parks. We need to invest in big parks.

In the immediate term, the big hit that is needed immediately is one indoor full-size indoor basketball court that is not owned by the school district with two covered lighted tennis ball courts that would double as 8 pickleball courts also not owned or controlled by the school district. This would need to include bathrooms etc. The outdoor courts could be lit by coin-operated lights that could be rented and turned on with a quarter machine or debit card machine.

The YMCA feels the customer service from the city is great, but there is a significant lack of facilities. Fields need to be watered and mowed, and Bathroom facilities maintenance is severely lacking, especially on the weekends.

Silverton Youth Softball

1. Describe your entities' programs and services.

Silverton Youth Softball; Sam Wurdinger (President). Non-Profit Organization for girls from 1st grade to 8th grade. Entry level sports for girls who seek to enter more competitive higher skilled baseball.

2.. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?

The organization does not have its own facilities. They utilize 2 outdoor fields at Mark Twain Middle School. They do not use Silverton High School grounds.

3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?

The organization does not use any park facilities owned and operated by Town of Silverton

4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity? No

5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities?

None but would hope that the City will someday set aside funds to build an area of a park to accommodate the softball association. The organization does not have access to any Silverton facilities as none exist for softball or baseball. To the extent they use the fields at Mark Twain Middle School, they hope that Silverton will subsidize the organization to maintain and/or improve the fields upon which they now play. Historically, the President of Silverton Softball personally maintains the fields, including weeding/mowing grass and amending the soil, upon which softball diamonds, pitching dirt mounds and backstops exist and makes any repairs needed to the field or backstop to ensure the safety of the softball players.

6.. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?

Yes. Expand existing parks to include softball diamonds, dirt mounds and backstops so that the softball players can practice in the existing parks at any hour, rather than after school hours at Mark Twain.

Further, Sam is negotiating with the Silverton School District to build a Field House on the High School grounds wherein the softball players will be able to practice indoors during inclement weather. He is hoping for 100 x 120 sq. ft building space. He would also like to include batting cages (indoors?) and to add "turf" to an outdoor area on the school grounds.

The Softball Association is conducting fundraisers to raise funds towards purchasing building material as well as hopes to partner with the Silverton Fox Foundation to aid in the construction of the Field House.

7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.

Yes. The neighborhood park in Pioneer Village could be modified to replace the location of the basketball court currently taking up space in the middle of the park. If the basketball court was moved to another location, the existing grassy area could be expanded in that space to include creating softball/baseball diamonds, mounds, and backstops from which the softball players could better practice.

8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?

There are no existing facilities provided by the Town. So, yes, the Town should create a designated area within the existing parks from which the softball/baseball players can practice.

9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?

No. See answers above.

Silverton Youth Softball

1. softball for girl's 1st through 8th grade, non-profit under the JBO non-profit. They have about 75 girls currently and they have a spring season from Spring break in March through July and a fall season from the end of August through Oct.
2. They have a field at Mark Twain and one at the middle school. They do most of the maintenance on the field themselves even though their use is through a partnership with the school district. The two softball fields they use are not shared with other teams for the most part, because they do not use the fields that the high school softball team uses. When the dugouts or backstops need repairs, they do it, they have replaced existing equipment with fundraising.
3. Their interaction is all through the school district.
4. They would also really like to see some park softball diamonds. Even small ones that they can practice on, even if they can't host games on them would be helpful. He suggested that there may be room for a small softball diamond at the existing space in Pioneer Park for example.
5. Youth softball also expect to continue growing in numbers and will need fields to use. In the long term they too would love to see a public park space of sports fields. Sam also brought up families that travel for youth sports and the effects on the local economies with towns can host tournaments. We do not have adequate fields to currently do that.
6. They are currently partnered with JBO and work closely with the school district. They are also fundraising for their new facility through the Fox Foundation.
7. Better maintenance of current fields would help. If the city or school district would spray the grass on fields for weeds that would help a lot. If more fields could be added to the green space behind Robert Frost that would also be very beneficial.
8. New facilities would be the best long-term goal, a city park made up of sports fields for all our youth sports organizations would be ideal.
9. Sam did not say anything critical of the city, but just feels his club doesn't really interact with the city directly on anything.
10. If the city could add a park with sports fields, it would meet a huge need.
11. The school district could maintain it's fields better, the clubs have gotten very used to doing much of the maintenance themselves and just accept that as the way things are.
12. The city should plan in the long term to add indoor gym space available to the public and a park made up of a variety of sports fields. All the existing clubs and teams need more practice spaces. Land needs to be acquired for this.
13. Having enough space as we continue to grow, meeting the needs of all our local youth sports.
14. Look into small spaces that could be creatively used now, such as adding a softball diamond to Pioneer Park or another small park. Look into the possibility of adding sports fields at the top corner of the Ike Mooney property.

Basically, from both we heard a very large interest in baseball and softball diamonds that are part of city parks and not just on school district property.

Silverton Youth Baseball Association

1. Describe your entities' programs and services.

Participants in this non-profit association include approximately 180 youths which make up 20 separate teams. The kids are in kindergarten to 8th grade age groups. The baseball season runs from May to mid July and September to November. The participants practice approximately 3x a week after school hours. There are 4 different levels of players: T-Ball (youngest members); Rookies; Minors; and Junior and Senior level players. The T-Ball and Rookies play at Robert Frost Elementary. The Jr. and Sr. players play at Davidson Field at Mark Twain and on the High School Grounds. The Association does not use any parks and recreation facilities managed by the Town.

2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?

The Association does not have its own facilities. See answer above. It also leases a playing field from the City of Mt. Angel for \$800 per season. While the School District permits practice and play on its fields at Mark Twain, the Association is paying \$3,000 each season to utilize indoor facilities and pays \$45/per hour for janitorial services. They are only allowed to use the school facilities for 1 hour a day. St. Paul Catholic Church has made its field available to the Association for \$1.00 a year; however, the grounds are not maintained, the dirt is hard and not amenable to safe play; and the bleachers are dangerous to sit upon. So, the Association has foregone playing at the Church grounds.

3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?

There is no such interaction.

4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?

No

5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities? Hope that the Town of Silverton will provide an area in any existing park or new park to accommodate grass or turf upon which the kids could practice and play games and, more importantly, an indoor facility so that they can practice and play during inclement weather.

6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?

Yes, partner with the Town to provide adequate practice and play areas for the Your Baseball Association participants.

7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.

8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain? See answers above.

Silverton Youth Baseball Association

1. junior baseball, includes t-ball for boys and girls combined and then baseball for ages 1st grade through 8th grade boys only (t-ball, rookies, minors, seniors are the levels). The club has almost 20 teams with 180 kids participated. It is a non-profit, does its own fundraising and is run by a board of parent volunteers, coaches are also parent volunteers. They have a spring season from mid-May to July and a fall season from Sept to Nov.

2. They do not have their own facilities, they use baseball fields at the high school and middle school, Robert Frost and St. Paul church. They pay \$1 a year to lease the field at St. Paul but they must maintain it and they need funds to do so, it is currently unusable. This year they also paid to rent a baseball diamond in Mt. Angel city park because they did not have enough practice space in silverton for

all their teams. Tyler did mention that their club is looking into requesting help from the city for some maintenance of fields, mostly financial help. They pay for janitorial services when they use the school district locations, for the last year they paid \$3,000.

3. They only use school district property and church property

4. Current facilities do not meet their needs, they must share the facilities with other clubs, such as soccer, softball, football and with school sports teams. Some of the fields are in very poor condition and some are not usable. They do a lot of their own maintenance. Silverton does not have a turf baseball field anywhere, which is an important facility for other baseball clubs, it takes a lot less maintenance and can be used in poor weather.

5. The club expects growth to continue, they had record breaking numbers this year and expect them to keep rising. They are currently fundraising to build a clubhouse on the high school property where they can train indoors. It would be shared with softball and the high school.

6. Their major partnership is with the school district and softball league.

7. The biggest thing that could help them is upgrades to existing facilities. They need to get the field at St. Paul updated and back to a usable condition. They would love to see more maintained baseball and softball diamonds on the campuses of Robert Frost and the middle school, both of which have unused land.

8. In an ideal world we would have a city park with baseball diamonds, many neighboring towns do, and they are used for league play and tournaments all the time. Could we put fields in at the property on Ike Mooney??? Could we look at bringing in Wayside Park as a city park? Can the city partner with the school district to add fields to existing school facilities? Without adding facilities can the city update existing fields on school property?

9. No, honestly, the city is not really providing any space or resources for youth baseball.

10. The best would be to have a city park that was made of up sports fields, soccer, softball, and baseball that club teams could use.

11. The school fields are maintained but could be done better and much of the space is not being well used.

12. In the long term, acquiring land that could hold a sports facility on park land would be ideal.

13. Growth, lack of space, lack of sports fields and lack of public indoor gym space.

14. The organization is looking for support from the city in how to upgrade some of the existing fields currently.

Overall, in conclusion, the youth baseball organization is a group of volunteers working hard for their kids and happy to do so, they are pretty much willing to continue getting by as they have done for a long time, but they are also quite aware that there has been no investment by the city into any of this. They need more space as the city grows, they need more usable fields when they are shared by so many entities. They play in neighboring communities, and they use city parks all the time that are maintained by local parks departments, and they would love to see something like that in the long-term planning for Silverton.

Farmer's Market

1. Describe your entities' programs and services. Saturday Farmer's Market
2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose? No.
3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities? Use of Townsquare Park parking and restrooms.
4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity? Improved access to additional parking would be beneficial.
5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities? Continual growth of vendors and potentially connection to crafter's market.
6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities? Crafter's market.
7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify. Parking
8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain? Covered area could extend season or improve access when market moves to community roots school location in winter months.
9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed? Not a strong connection between city services and farmer's market but the use of facilities is critical.
10. How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries?
N/A
11. Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained? Yes.
12. What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider? Year-round covered space or centrally located indoor space.
13. What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years? Pickleball, centrally located attractions.
14. What else would you like the City to know?

Music in the Park

- Describe your entities' programs and services.
"Music Mondays" free concert series every Monday June - August 6:30-8pm. Paid for with donations.
- Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?
No dedicated facilities - use park setting.
- How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?
Use of the Mill Park in the shade near the all-abilities park
- Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?

Not ideal – but seems to work ok.

- What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton’s facilities?
Has been popular and could expand music offerings if there was a more suitable location.
- Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?
None talked about
- Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.
 - “Amphitheater” was very poorly designed and executed. Too steep, no terraces for seating, no power, no stage/place to set up for bands, no shade. Many attendees are older, and the amphitheater is too steep to accommodate any sort of ADA access.
 - A properly designed/dedicated outdoor performance space.
- Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?
See above. Shaded, easy access seating, small stage, access to power, easy access to ADA bathrooms, easy to pull vehicles near for setup and band equipment, etc.
- Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?
All-abilities park install didn’t account for music in the park and had to move and make it work but left a less-than-ideal scenario for the events
- How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries? N/A
- Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained? Yes
- What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider?
Outdoor performance space for bands, guest speakers, performing arts.
- What else would you like the City to know?
There is a very vibrant art and music interest in Silverton – the city can help support this with a focus on creating spaces for this.

Pickleball

1. Describe your entities’ programs and services.
None currently, just individuals playing pickleball.
2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?
 - Silverton currently has two indoor courts at the YMCA that are heavily used and shared with other sports.
 - Occasionally using middle school but they must tape the courts on their own and the nets are too high and are not able to use them like pickle ball nets (pickle ball allows for “around-the-post” play which the tennis nets do not allow).
 - Currently using other facilities, Salem Capital has 6-8 courts and challenge courts (used for above a certain level of Pickle ball skills)
 - Woodburn has new outdoor courts.
 - Also using facilities in Dallas, Albany, Newberg
3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?
It doesn’t, just the YMCA

4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?

No

5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities?

- Would ideally see indoor and outdoor courts, these two types have different balls, different types of play, and attract different players. For example, Corvallis has mixed classes.
- Corvallis also has the ability for Round Robin play, which is becoming more popular and needs a minimum of 6 courts.

6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?

YMCA: could work with a Silverton Pickle Ball Club in the future but this realistically wouldn't exist until there were facilities because people pay a fee to be part of the club to play in certain areas.

7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.

If the YMCA was going to be upgraded, yes. The YMCA courts are currently wooden which is not ideal for pickle ball and there are only two courts. Since only 8 people can play at a time and a typical game takes 8-15 minutes players often must wait 30+ minutes which increases risk for injury because people get stiff while waiting. It also limits the ability to play at any competitive level. Also, the lighting at the YMCA is horrible, feels like they are always playing at dusk which makes it harder to see the ball/reaction times are slowed and faulty.

8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?

As above.

9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?

No. The city currently isn't involved in any pickle ball facility maintenance or development. As noted previously at the middle school they must tape on their own and this often gets pulled up. They must bring their own leaf blowers to clear the courts. They can't play during school hours.

10. How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries?

Unrelated to pickle ball, the city needs more outdoor recreation areas/facilities. [Rhett] used to be a soccer coach as well, Robert Frost field is unusable most of the year. If there was a sprinkler system in place this could at least be used in the summer and in the fall. Silverton is also growing and there needs to be a plan in place to support this growth. Traffic is getting worse; it takes longer to get to places.

11. Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained?

Yes, maintenance of current park facilities has never been a concern.

12. What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider?

More outdoor recreation areas.

13. What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?

Expanded population, traffic concerns as above. Parking takes longer, more development means even more traffic but also the need for more outdoor recreation spaces.

14. What else would you like the City to know?

- Pickle ball is a great sport because it allows for multigenerational interaction that most other sports do not. [Rhett] recently played a game with his 13-year-old son and they played against a

pair of players in their 60s and 70s. The sport is growing so much and allows for positive influences among generations.

- Also, would like to note that pickle ball attracts many from the older generations. A lot of these people could provide some financial backing, if the city needed this support and asked, there are likely people who would step in to donate.

Silver Falls School District Athletic Advisory Committee

1. Describe your entities programs and services
23-25 different athletic teams (JV-varsity), 3 seasons, 900 kids year participate per year in high school level. PE classes. Serves youth sports in town, supports middle school participants and adult athletic groups as well.
2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?
2 soccer fields, 2 softball fields, a baseball field. And another area for practice, felids by middle school, green space, turf field at track, track, 6 tennis courts, 3 at SMS, RF fields. Ang outlying schools have makeshift fields/open space playgrounds.
3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities? Not currently.
4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity? What we have for the schools are at capacity and cannot offer more to youth sports or adult programs.
5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities? I like the facilities we have here, and we need to improve them, i.e. turf field. (I'd like it here and at RF or a complex behind RF)
6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities? The first thing is to sit together and talk about it. City council, park and rec committee, superintendent etc.
7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify. Yes.see above.
8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain? Of course. Covered complex, turf. If space is available.
9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed? That's a hard question. I don't see them doing anything for us over here so to speak. I could be wrong. There's always room for a partnership between the two biggest entities in town.
10. How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries? Include pickle ball, covered areas, keep in mind other activities, all abilities. I know there are playgrounds at the school but there isn't parks over by mark twain and only a little park in mill town. Could be improved upon.
11. Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained? I think so. They are nice and clean. Just need more!
12. What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider? More play space for kids. More nature and places to exercise.
13. What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years? Space and utilize those spaces and resources.

14. What else would you like the City to know? Get an opportunity to sit down with this city to partner up. Both would benefit greatly.

Silverton Mainstay

Describe your entities' programs and services.

- Program that serves adults (18+) with disabilities; intellectual, emotional, physical and creates activities and excursions for this population
- Meet 2 times a week from 1pm-4pm T/Th @ the Methodist Church

Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?

No dedicated facilities – share space at the Methodist church – would love dedicated or shared space to help the growth.

How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?

- Use of the Mill Park – but there is no seating (benches, picnic tables, etc)
- Use the pavilion @ Coolidge McClaine Park
- City pool

Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?

Would love a dedicated space in new Y or community center that could be shared with WIC or other service organizations, but in particular a space for activities, crafts, physical activity, a gathering space/ flex use space.

What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities?

- Grow to 4 days a week + See above

Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?

- Volunteer work experience partnership for members of Silverton Mainstay with City for maintenance work, repairs, etc
- YMCA partnership to bring programming under the Y umbrella as a Y program??

Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.

- Better seating along the path and all-abilities park and Mill Park – picnic tables so that groups can gather there and do crafts in the shade or sit to enjoy the park.
- More tables and seating

Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?

- See above.

Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?

- Lack of courts (basketball, Pickleball), fountain / splash pad – water feature

How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries?

- Create a tax or fee option specific for parks and recreation on city taxes or water bill? Somehow dedicate money to parks and Rec.

Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained?

- Yes

What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider?

- Sidewalks on C street to connect all areas without adequate

What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?

- Cost to upgrade and upkeep – create a district that has dedicated funds

What else would you like the City to know?

- 1-3% of the population has intellectual or mental disabilities and therefore as the city grows so too should the services and spaces for activities that are inclusive to all.

Fall Line Sports

I met with the owner (Justin). He and his business interact with skateboarders, bicyclists of all types, inline skaters, and general outdoor enthusiasts. Here are his thoughts:

- He feels that the parks are generally well-maintained.
- He would like to see more trails (for mountain biking and hiking. He mentioned the possibility of expansion at the reservoir. There is a trail there now, but it is currently blocked with a fence near the quarry.
- His customers say they do not feel safe bicycle commuting in town. The town needs to be more bike friendly and safer.
- The skate park is great. There is a planned 3rd phase to the park that he hopes is still under consideration. He believes more activity at that location (proposed pickleball courts, YMCA) would be good.
- He thinks a good addition to Silverton recreation would be a "paved pump track" like they have in Redmond - see link below. It could be used by skateboarders, mountain bikers, inline skaters, etc.

Link:

<https://bermstyle.com/redmond-oregon-homestead-park-velosolutions-paved-pump-track/>

Silverton Art Association

1. Currently president of the board for the Silverton Art Association. A group based next to the Coolidge-McClaine park that offers adult and children's art classes, workshops, artists co-op space, art shows and events. They also partner with the school district to teach art in our schools with an artist in residence program.
2. Yes, they have facilities, 2 buildings owned by the city and leased to them next to the city park. The art association uses the facilities for classes, gallery space, artist co-op workspace and special events.
3. Their facilities basically exist in the park so there is a great deal of interaction, they are very happy with the partnership. They are working with Homer Days committee on some partnering between the festivals.
4. Yes, they believe their facilities meet their needs. They are very happy that the city provides them with an affordable lease, their buildings have maintenance needs, but they seemed very understanding that they need to fund that in other ways. They are applying for grants and dealing with some deferred maintenance. They would love to see the city add some kind of permanent stage structure in the park that could be used for all festivals and events. Currently those are rented at a pretty high cost to the organizations each time they are needed.
5. They plan to stay in their current facilities and continue using the park space around them. They are currently growing and adding more programs.

6. Happy with their partnership with the city. Looking to partner more with the school district for summer art programs outside of school.
7. Their own facilities need some upgrades; they are working independently on that. The suggested upgrade in the park is a permanent stage structure and would like to see less dead grass, draught tolerant plantings instead.
8. Only comment on new facilities was the permanent stage.
9. The art association is very happy with the city's support; they feel the low lease they have is great support from the city. They feel valued by the public and the city.
10. They would love to see the water fountain running for the kids in the park, possibly a recycled water feature added to that so it could run in the summertime even when we are on water restrictions. Also, less dead grass in the parks, looking to alternative to grass, possibly clover or other drought resistant options that are still good to walk on but will keep the area cooler and look nicer than dead grass.
11. He is in the city park at the art facilities all the time and feels that the park is well maintained, it's clean and the bathrooms are clean. He is happy with how the city maintains the parks.
12. He would love to see a permanent stage for performances or an amphitheater in the park, more gathering space.
13. Didn't really give an answer to this
14. Appreciates the partnership with the city and the park spaces we have.

The Oregon Garden

1. The Oregon Garden is an 80-acre botanical garden. In addition to viewing a wide variety of plants and trees, we offer educational programs to children and adults, host a summer music series, and rent facilities for events, such as weddings, meetings, etc.
2. See above for description of facility usage/purpose.
3. We do not interact directly with SP facilities. However, because we are a partner with the City, we work closely with Public Works, particularly Water & Sewer, as the Garden is the repository of the City's treated effluent from May to October.
4. Public Works also assists with assistance in maintaining the extensive wetlands complex, and some of the areas beyond the Garden boundaries.
5. We will continue to work closely on the treated effluent, which we use for irrigation, thus resolving a major environmental issue for the City.
6. The biggest partnership opportunity would be for park expansion by utilizing City/Garden property, which is adjacent to the 80-acre Pettit property, which includes the 22-acre lake.
7. Although the City also has 2 small parks and the pool, the only park of size is Coolidge McClain. Unfortunately, due to the number of trees, there is little opportunity for recreational opportunities, so usage is limited to picnics, and special events, like Homer and the Fine Art Festival.

8. If CM Park was thinned to create some open space, it could create additional use opportunities.
9. Absolutely.
10. By increasing useable space at CM Park, and then identifying and acquiring land for additional parks.
11. For the most part yes, given the limitations at CM Park. However, the storm damaged restrooms there should be repaired or suitably replaced.
12. Completing an achievable parks master plan supported by realistic funding. The non-garden space at the Garden and the Pettit Property would be a great start.
13. Acquiring land and building the facilities. While the Garden and Pettit Property would not be suitable for sport types of recreation, it offers great opportunity for hiking, fishing, and boating. Most importantly, the City already owns the land.
14. The financial challenges are significant. An overly expansive proposal for a Park & Rec district will never fly, as history has shown. Coupled with the impact of school bonds, voter support will be difficult to build. That said, it is still worth pursuing a worthwhile project(s), built on interest and affordability.

Silver Falls Soccer

1. Describe your entities' programs and services.
We offer youth soccer practices and competitions for over 300 Silverton area boys and girls from kindergarten to 8th grade.
2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?
We do not have our own facilities. We rely on Silver Falls School District facilities.
3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?
It doesn't.
4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?
No. We have a need for more field space.
5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities?
We are building funds to be involved in any future efforts with other groups to increase field space and availability.
6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?
Silver Falls School District and the City of Silverton.
7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.
The fields we currently use are in good shape. There is an interest and need to add artificial turf fields.
8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?

Yes. We share field space with Silver Falls School District athletics, JBO, Silverton Softball, YMCA. There are not enough fields to satisfy the needs of these organizations currently. Our numbers continue to trend up with an increasing number of participants.

9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?

The City does not provide us with physical space currently.

10. How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries?

A larger space for current activities as well as a wider variety of activities with space.

11. Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained?

They are properly maintained for their current purposes.

12. What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider?

Consider converting the Westfield property to a sport complex. Explore other property for this purpose as well.

13. What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?

Growing number of users, increased labor and maintenance costs, increased competition for land use.

14. What else would you like the City to know?

Silver Falls Soccer Club is ready and willing to work with the City to further explore and develop more park spaces with a variety of uses.

Homer Davenport Days Board

1. Outgoing president of the Homer Davenport Days board, staying involved. Plans and executes the Homer Davenport Festival yearly in Cooldige-McClaine park.

2. They use the city park for the festival every year. They do not pay to use the park; they work with public works directly on the organizing and who is responsible for what.

3. They work directly with Mike Dahlberg at public works on the needs for the park facility during the festival. They do the maintenance of the park and bathrooms during the 3-day event. Public works does provide them with certain supplies and some set up. It would help if they had better structure in their relationship with the park, a more precise set of expectations on who is responsible for what.

4. The current park does meet their needs; they would love to see the park have a little more maintenance and be a little more manicured in appearance. The addition of a permanent stage would really help in meeting their needs.

5. They plan to continue using the city park for their festival. A permanent stage or amphitheater at the park would be very helpful. They currently borrow a stage from the school district or rent a stage and the set up and tear down and storage is a lot of work. An amphitheater in the park would be a very helpful resource for them and for many other entities (in their opinion).

6. They work with Rotary, the city, the art festival, and others already. They are working on many partnerships. Eric also serves on the board of the YMCA and at this point we discussed partnerships more in general for the city. One concern he brought up was that as the city partners with others to bring in

more facilities we must make sure we have the staffing and manpower to maintain our resources. We need to have the staff to maintain what we have and to maintain it well.

7. Eric strongly feels that before adding more facilities we look at what we have and how we can use them better. We can make some of the things we have better and more multi use.

8. If adding new facilities, start by making sure we have the staff. He feels we are barely meeting our parks' needs and new facilities should be added, but thoughtfully. We are unusual for a town this size in that we have no sports complex that is part of our parks, all our sports facilities are school property. He sees a need for sports facilities.

9. They feel supported by the city, but they do have an interest in seeking some small financial support from the city for Homer days. They believe that most people believe the festival is put on mostly by the city and they run with a very tight budget and very small reserves. They are not making money and are discussing seeking some financial input from the city on an annual basis.

10. Eric feels very strongly that we need a separate parks district. We need to look at that in our long-term planning. It's a resource for funding, for staffing and for specific projects. A city of this size should have one.

11. He believes they could be maintained better. We should be making more of what we have. We should be keeping the city parks groomed better, the skate park was mentioned several times, that there is no landscaping, that it is not maintained well, and families could use it for picnics and hanging out, but the grounds are not kept up well enough to do that.

12. Number one-some kind of amphitheater or permanent stage structure in Coolidge-McClaine. He is currently working with a group that plans to propose an amphitheater mostly built by volunteers, they are working on design concepts now. A parks district in the long term is very important. He would love to see more creek access in our parks and downtown. Creek access from Town Square Park that doesn't involve climbing under the bridge. Also, there is much better access in Coolidge-McClaine along the creek bank by the bridge. If a footbridge could be built somewhere so we could have a loop of trails through the park and over the creek. More walking trails in general. A sports complex that includes Turf fields for sports, very important so they can be used all year. A splash pad at the new city hall and green space there that can be used for the farmer's market.

13. Creating a parks district. Improving staffing to maintain what we have. Finding a way to add a sports complex. Funding.

14. Creek access, play up our resources that we have, the creek is very inaccessible in town. Not totally park related, but he did talk about making sure there is adequate parking with anything we add, that if we do anything downtown or near town that we must consider parking issues.

Boy Scouts

1. Describe your entities' programs and services.

Boy Scouts, youth program, foster parent leadership to boys and girls in the community. Basically, a service group.

2. Do you have facilities? If so, who is using the facilities and for what purpose?

Use of St. Edwards Church (meetings)

3. How does your entity interact with Silverton Park facilities?
Clean up, eagle projects, camping at Coolidge/McClain Park
4. Do existing programs and facilities meet the needs of your entity?
Yes
5. What is your long-range plan that relates to Silverton's facilities?
N/A
6. Do you have recommendations on partnership opportunities?
Lions Club/work @ reservoir, more trail work
7. Should existing facilities be upgraded? If yes, identify.
Yes, cleaning up invasive species
8. Should new facilities be added? If yes, can you explain?
Teen center
9. Do you feel the City adequately supports your entity, if not what is needed?
Permit to sell trees(?)
10. How can the City best serve the recreation needs of the residents within its boundaries?
More creek access, better trails
11. Do you believe park facilities are properly maintained?
Yes
12. What are some long-range goals you recommend the City consider?
Interconnections, bike paths to Mount Angel, better bike access, more places into town
13. What are the greatest parks and recreation challenges facing the City in the next 5 to 10 years?
Value of land, not enough city land
14. What else would you like the City to know?
Interconnections around the city & rails to trails

Appendix E

Public Open House Comment Card Responses

Master Plan General Comment Cards

Greenways/Trails – The loop people like to walk is downtown – Coolidge – stairs – Abiqua Heights – danger hill. Especially going up/down danger hill and the stairs. One of the only parts that isn't paved happens to be the City's property at the water plant.

Adjust city budget to include swimming pool operations funding. Stop paying for operations through bonds.

Turn unpaved road north of E. Main between Ames and Park into greenway/park after water project. I think it is a hidden park waiting to be made. Let people volunteer for the city to grow parks and recreation to include programming for a teen center. Or to build city approved trails at the reservoir.

Send a staff member to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Maintain the safety surface of playgrounds to meet the safety standard. None of the playgrounds are currently meeting the standard.

Create partnerships with school districts for use of recreation spaces, gyms, fields, courts, playgrounds. Churches also have spaces that have community recreation value.

Need a park on the east side of town like Crestview neighborhood/Steelhammer area with playground equipment.

Paved pump track/flow trails, ala Bentonville, AK and better, brighter skatepark lights. Build more trail at Roger's Wayside. Silver Falls Composite NICA team would love to help.

Add a pump track. Better lighting at skate park.

Stocking Fish at Pettit Reservoir. Market Silverton Skate Park as tourism destination. Connect all-abilities playground to parking lot with boardwalk. Have a river surfing consulting company develop a concept. Interpretation signs with partnership with historical society. Improve road crossing from pre-school to Old Mill. ADA restrooms at old Mill Park can potentially be CDBG eligible.

Pedestrian safety across Oak and Main between Mill/3rd and 2nd street is a major barrier for connectivity due to the visibility (lack of) and speed of traffic coming down the hill. The quieter streets are preferable for children, but their streets pose a barrier. I won't send my son to the library currently (12 years old) and when walking/jogging, this is the most dangerous pinch point. Not all traffic prefers the main routes, especially when quieter/prettier/safer routes are available.

Natural walking trails around the Web Lake area/wetlands/park would help preserve the area from future development in housing or industry.

We should put a trail around and to the reservoir. Currently it is not safe to walk to it. And we should make a sandy beach for the many kids and families that swim there.

Paved pump track at the skate park.

A paved pump track would be sweet. Something like what Portland has at Gateway Green. Riding a pump track, regardless of what type of wheels you have, is a ton of fun. And a great work out. A paved pump track would go great in the Judy Schmidt Memorial Skate Park.

This was a very well-organized event! So fun and informative. This should be a template for future community feedback events. Well done! I'm especially interested in the new greenway idea. A focus on safety and accessibility will be important. I love the enthusiasm for pickleball, but can these courts also accommodate 4-square or other fun outdoor games? Looking forward to future updates!

New option!! Public green space across main from the water treatment plant between Petit & Steers property (Ames & Park Street, North of Main).

Love the concept of better connecting the city through more trails! Thank you for the work to improve the safety of bicycle and pedestrian facilities! This is so important. Please don't stop trying for a safer connection to town for the Webb Lake neighborhood (in Hobart) or otherwise.

I would love to see nature trails connected with the wetlands and oak trees conservation near Mark Twain.

Ike Mooney - if picnic shelter, then something wooden or stone and nice and unique, maybe with a fireplace but not what it looks like in the picture.

Greenways Comment Cards

Pettit Park. Slower speeds by skatepark past gardens. Crosswalk across Cascade Highway - skatepark to other side of highway/Main Street.

I would very much like access directly up the hill Coolidge/McClain Park to the neighborhood above. Also, a walking trail that loops around the city!

Pioneer to Abiqua Heights to downtown. Coolidge McClain Park to Eureka to Oregon Gardens. Pettit Reservoir.

The greenway proposed on the old railroad tracks between Whittier Street and the neighboring area is an excellent idea. It would help make a fast and safe pedestrian connection. Pedestrian crossing designs such as bump-outs would do a lot to make pedestrians safer.

Greenway map is good overall! I recommend focusing on connections first, to establish comprehensive access throughout Silverton. Nodes at key areas. Prioritize safe street crossings. Utilize dark sky approved lighting where lighting is critical/necessary. Please pursue accessibility with routes.

Excited to have a safe route and future trails at Pettit pond. More trails along the creek are a wonderful long-term goal, piece by piece, with bridge(s) where possible (Salamander Island).

The trail along the creek, connecting parks, is a great idea. Zigzag uphill to Eureka and to Pettit Reservoir is great. When these are real be sure to promote.